

THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 759.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1842.

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FOURPENCE.
(Stamped Edition, 5d.)

For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, are received by M. HAUDRY, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, or at the Athenæum Office, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 25fr. or 12s. the year. To other Countries, the postage in addition.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN. That the Annual Examination for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 4th of JULY. The Certificate of age must be transmitted to the Registrar fourteen days before the Examination begins. Candidates who have not completed their Twentieth year will be allowed to compete for Honours. Somerset House, 10th May, 1842. By order of the Senate, R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING of this Society, for the ELECTION of OFFICERS, &c. will be held at 11, Regent-street, on MONDAY, the 23rd inst. at One o'clock, P.M. The MEDALS will be presented, and the ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS delivered, at the same Sitting.—The Hon. JAMES DINE, Gent., at the Duchess House Tavern, 25, James-street, at Half-past Six precisely.—N.B. No Meeting in the evening. J. R. JACKSON, Secretary.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE TWELFTH MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE will commence in MANCHESTER, on THURSDAY, the 2nd of JUNE, 1842. JOHN TAYLOR, General Treasurer, 1, Duke-street, Adelphi, London.

A CURATOR WANTED.—The BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON is in WANT of a CURATOR to succeed Mr. G. E. NICHOL. He will be required to attend three days a week from 10 to 4.—Apply by letter (pre-paid) to Mr. G. E. NICHOL, Secretary, 20, Bedford-street, Covent-garden.

MEDICAL PUPIL.—A SURGEON, &c., twenty years established in practice, who also holds a public appointment which gives his Pupils extensive advantages, has a VACANCY for an APPRENTICE, who will be regarded as one of the family, and will have his morals strictly watched over. He will also be permitted to attend Lectures, &c. during his articles. Former pupils or their friends may be referred to.—Address (pre-paid) M. J. M. Burn's Library, Kennington-pens, Surrey.

MENTAL AFFLICTION.—A respectable Tradesman's Family in the country are desirous of RECEIVING A LADY whose case requires kind and constant attention. Having been accustomed to the charge of invalids labouring under the above distressing malady, the advertiser has assured that this would prove a desirable domicile for any person thus afflicted. Unexceptionable references given.—Address A. Z., Post Office, Lewes.

UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION.—The SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY of the BRITISH and FOREIGN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 18th inst., when a Sermon in aid of the funds of the Society will be preached by the Rev. CHARLES VICKERS, of Leeds, at the Chapel in Essex-street, Strand. Service to commence at Eleven o'clock. The Chair will be taken by Richard Martineau, Esq., at Three o'clock precisely. Tickets (for Ladies, 2s., and Gentlemen, 1s.) may be had of the Secretaries and Members of the Committee; at the Office of the Association, 21, St. Swinith's-lane, Lombard-street; and at the Tavern.

SHIPWRECKED FISHERMEN AND MARINERS' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. The FOURTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL DINNER of this Society will take place at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, on SATURDAY, May 21, 1842. Admiral the Hon. Sir ROBERT STOFFORD, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Governor of Greenwich Hospital, in the Chair.

Stewards.

The Duke of Roxburgh
The Marquis of Downshire
The Marquis of Westminster
The Earl of Harrington
The Lord Bishop of Norwich
The Lord Bishop of Chichester
Lord Eliot, M.P.
Lord Dymoke
General the Hon. Sir Edward Fane, G.C.B.
Hon. Capt. F. Spencer, R.N.
Hon. Captain D. Fox, G.C.B.
Admiral Sir George Cockburn, G.C.B., M.P.
Admiral Knatchbull, Bart.
M.P.
Sir Laurence Shadwell
Sir B. W. Bulkeley, Bart.
M.P.
Sir C. Lemon, Bart. F.R.S.
Sir V. B. Johnstone, Bart.
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Sir William Kay, Bart.
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Vice-Admiral Sir J. P. Beresford, Bart. K.C.B.
Sir T. B. Hepburn, Bart. M.P.
Admiral Sir D. Milne, K.C.B.
Vice-Admiral Sir Henry Digby, K.C.B.
Sir G. A. Westphal, R.N.
Rear-Admiral Sir
James Ackers, Esq. M.P.
Colonel Hugh Baillie, M.P.
George Parker, Esq.
Captain Becher, R.N.

Dinner hour, Half-past Five o'clock.
Tickets, 1s. each, to be had at the Office of the Society, 26, Beekley, London, May 14, 1842. EDW. WEST, Secretary.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL.—MEDICAL COLLEGE.

The ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION of PRIZES to the Pupils most distinguished for their acquirements in the different branches of Medical Study during the past Sessions, took place on Monday, May 2, 1842.

The Rev. G. A. BOWERS, B.D., Treasurer of the Hospital, in the Chair.

SUMMER SESSION, 1841.
BOTANY—Silver Medal—Mr. R. C. Golding, London; Certificate, Mr. E. H. May.
MIDWIFERY—Mr. R. C. Golding.

WINTER SESSION, 1841-2.
EXHIBITION OF DISSECTIONS—Mr. John Terry, Bath.

MEDICINE—Mr. Michael Toeman, Princes-row, Kennington.

SURGERY—Senior Class: 1st, Mr. John Moore, Wickham Market, Suffolk; 2nd, Mr. A. T. Vane, Crayke, Eton, Beds.; Junior Class: 1st, Mr. J. Terry; 2nd, Mr. W. M. Neale, Waltham.

MIDWIFERY—Senior Class: Students of Two Sessions: 1st, Mr. M. Toeman; 2nd, Mr. M. Toeman; Junior Class: 1st, Mr. John Moore; 2nd, Mr. W. M. Neale.—Junior Class: Mr. T. F. May.

PHYSIOLOGY—Senior Class: Equal: Mr. R. C. Golding; Mr. John Moore.—Junior Class: Mr. E. Noyce.

PRACTICAL ANATOMY—Senior Class: 1st, Mr. J. Yate, Madeley, Salop; 2nd, Mr. John Moore, Kennington.

CHEMISTRY—1st, Mr. E. Noyce; 2nd, Mr. W. Ackland, Stowell, Somerset.

MATHEMATICS—1st, Mr. M. Toeman; 2nd, Mr. E. Noyce.

DILIGENCE AND GOOD CONDUCT—Mr. J. Terry; Mr. G. F. Burroughes. JOHN ROBERTSON, Hon. Sec.

EXETER HALL.

Under the Sanction of the Committee of Privy Council on Education.

WRITING, on the METHOD OF MULLHAUSER. A CLASS (No. 3) for FEMALES, will be opened on TUESDAY EVENING, the 12th of May, at Six o'clock, under the direction of Mr. PHINGLE, and will meet every Tuesday Evening of the same hour, until the completion of the Course of Sixteen Lessons.
The Lessons will commence at Six, and terminate at Half-past Seven o'clock precisely.

TERMS. for the Course of Sixteen Lessons of one hour and a half each, 6s. 4d., to be paid in advance.

A CLASS (No. 4) for MALES, will be opened on the same Evening, at a Quarter before Eight o'clock, under the direction of Mr. M'LEOD, and will meet every Tuesday Evening of the same hour, until the completion of the Course of Sixteen Lessons.

The Lessons will commence at a Quarter before Eight, and terminate at a Quarter past Nine o'clock precisely.

TERMS. for the Course of Sixteen Lessons of one hour and a half each, 6s. 4d., to be paid in advance.

Tickets for the above-mentioned Classes may be obtained at Exeter Hall, any Evening previous to the commencement of the Classes except Saturday, between the hours of Five and Nine.

EXETER HALL.

Under the Sanction of the Committee of Privy Council on Education.

SINGING, on the METHOD OF WILHEM.—SINGING CLASS (No. 13) for FEMALES, will be opened on Thursday Evening, May 19, at a Quarter before Eight o'clock, under the superintendence of Mr. JOHN HULLAH, to be conducted by one of his principal Assistants, and will meet every Monday and Thursday, at the same hour, until the completion of the Course.

TERMS. for the Course of Sixty Lessons, to persons engaged in elementary instruction, 15s., to be paid in advance; or should monthly payments be preferred, then 2s. 6d. per month, to be paid in advance. To persons not engaged in elementary instruction, 30s., to be paid in advance.

SINGING CLASS (No. 14) for GENTLEMEN, will be opened on Tuesday Evening, May 21, at Half-past Five o'clock, to be conducted by Mr. JOHN HULLAH, and will meet every Tuesday and Friday Evening, at the same hour, until the completion of the Course.

TERMS. for the Course of Sixty Lessons, Three Guineas, to be paid in advance.

SINGING CLASS (No. 15) for SCHOOLMASTERS, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, and others, will be opened on Friday Evening, May 27, at a Quarter before Seven o'clock, under the superintendence of Mr. JOHN HULLAH, to be conducted by one of his principal Assistants, and will meet every Tuesday and Friday Evening, at the same hour, until the completion of the Course.

TERMS.—Schoolmasters, Sunday School Teachers, and others engaged in the instruction of the children of the poor, will pay 15s. for the Course, or 2s. 6d. per month (Eight Lessons); but persons not so engaged will pay 30s. for the Course, in advance.

The Pupils must be provided with a copy of the Manual, in two Parts, price 2s. 6d. each, or with the Lessons, in three Parts, price 6d. each; published by Mr. PARKER, 41, West Strand.

Tickets for the above-mentioned Classes may be obtained at Exeter Hall, any Evening previous to the commencement of the Classes, except Saturday, between the hours of Five and Nine.

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.—NOTICE IS

hereby given, that the ANNUAL GENERAL COURT OF PROPRIETORS OF THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY will be held on TUESDAY the 31st day of May instant, at One o'clock precisely, at this House, for the election of Directors and other Officers of the said Company, and for the transaction of other business, at the said Meeting, the following Directors will go out of office, viz.

VICOUNT INGESTRE, M.P.
Sir WILLIAM MOLESWORTH, Bart.
ARTHUR WILKS, Esq.
JOHN ELLERKER BULLCOTT, Esq.
JOHN WILLIAM BUCKLE, Esq.
HENRY ALLISON AGNEW, Esq. M.P.
But being eligible for re-election, hereby offer themselves to be re-elected accordingly. By order of the Court.
JOHN WARD, Secretary.
New Zealand House, Broad-street Buildings, 10th May, 1842.

GOVERNESSES AND TEACHERS.

MONS. DE PORQUET respectfully informs the Nobility, Gentry, and Principals of Schools, that he is prepared to supply English and Foreign Governesses and Teachers, with excellent references, and duly qualified for every branch of education.—School Property transferred. Apply to Monsieur de Porquet, 11, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, between Eleven and Four.

CONCHOLOGY.

A very choice arrival of SHELLS from Madagascar has just been added to LOVELL REEVE'S extensive Cabinet, including, amongst others of equal rarity and beauty, specimens of that magnificent land shell, the new *Cyclotoma Castermanni*, figured in Reeve's "Conchologia Systematica," vol. 2, p. 28, pl. 184, f. 14, and pl. 185, f. 21. Now on sale the celebrated *Folus cynobius* of the Tankerville Catalogue, the *Amor* *Pro*, *Magdus antiquus* of extraordinary size and beauty, &c. &c.—Collectors residing in the country may have specimens sent for sale to any amount.—LOVELL REEVE, Naturalist, 8, King William-street, Strand, London.

CLAUDET'S INSTANTANEOUS DAGUERRETYPE OR PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS,

and Groups of Figures, with background, representing various well-defined scenes, by his new patented improved process, are TAKEN DAILY, at the Royal Adelaide Gallery, Lower Arcade, Strand, either in bust or full-length, single, or in groups of several figures. The instantaneousness of Mr. Claudet's process insures a perfect likeness, with a pleasing expression; his backgrounds produce a picturesque effect, and his mode of durably fixing the image prevents its fading, changing colour, or being easily rubbed off.

OFFICE for PATENTS of INVENTION and

REGISTRATION of DESIGNS, No. 63, Lincoln's Inn-fields.—Inventors and Capitalists are informed, that a PROSPECTUS, containing much useful information as to securing BRITISH AND FOREIGN PATENTS, and protection of Designs and Patents, may be had (gratis) on application to Mr. Alexander Prince, No. 63, Lincoln's Inn-fields, who will be happy to advise intending Patentees as to the most economical course to pursue.

Sales by Auction.

FRENCH, ITALIAN, AND SPANISH BOOKS. Mr. L. A. LEWIS will SELL, on MONDAY, 16th, and two following days,

THE FIRST PORTION OF THE EXTENSIVE

RETAIL STOCK of the late Mr. D. A. TALBOYS, of Oxford; comprising the best Standard Works in the FRENCH, ITALIAN, AND SPANISH LANGUAGES. 12s. Fleet-street, May 16, 1842.

SOUTHWICK'S ROOMS.

By Messrs. SOUTHWICK & SON, at their Rooms, 22, Fleet-street, on THURSDAY, May 19, and following day,

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BOOKS, Ancient and Modern, including Works in various branches of Literature, English and Foreign; together with a large quantity of Parliamentary Reports, Journals of the House of Lords, &c. &c. May be viewed, and Catalogues had.

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30	1 6 4	1 12 2	1 19 1	2 7 4	2 17 6					
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50	2 16 7	3 9 4	4 5 5	5 6 3	6 13 7					

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F. G. SMITH, Secretary.

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Published on Saturday April 30, the Number for MAY, of **THE UNION: A Monthly Record of Moral, Social, and Educational Progress.** Price 6d.

Contents.—Prospects of Society.—Touch'd in the Head, by the Author of Remembrances of a Monthly Nurse.—Employment of Females in Mines.—Fine Art. Art. II. History of its Progress in this Country, to the Reign of George II.—Miserism, by J. Dixey, Esq. Surgeon.—Condition of the Working Classes.—Thomas Miller's Poems.—Monthly Register of Politics, Literature, Science, and Art, &c. &c.

It contains several able and instructive articles; its tone is liberal on all subjects; and it seems highly calculated to accord with the object for which it is set on foot.—We wish the *Union* all the success it so well deserves. —*Leeds Times.*

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1842.

REVIEWS

Cabool; being a Personal Narrative of a Journey to, and Residence in that City, in the Years 1836, 7 and 8. By the late Lieut.-Col. Sir Alexander Burnes, C.B. Murray.

THIS volume is of a lighter and more superficial cast than the preceding works of Sir Alexander Burnes: Masson anticipated him in investigating the antiquities of Afghanistan; Lieut. Wood published the most striking facts connected with the voyage up the Indus; and the late Doctor Lord was originally chosen to be the historian of the mission to Cabul. It was only after the death of the last-named gentleman, that Sir Alexander Burnes determined on collecting and arranging his personal recollections of the progress of the mission through a country to which recent events have given such deep and melancholy interest. The embassy to Cabul was designed to accomplish commercial objects only; to investigate the possibility of navigating the Indus, and, by means of that river and its tributaries, opening marts for British goods in Central Asia. Though political convulsions and military disasters have changed the nature of the interest attached to Sindh and Afghanistan, yet sufficient importance still attaches itself to the original objects of the mission, to claim the attention of the public. We may hope that Commerce will follow at no short distance in the train of war, healing its devastations, removing its animosities, and diffusing the blessings of civilization and peace.

The greatest obstacles to the navigation of the Indus are found in its Delta; the mouths of the river are continually shifting, so that the branch by which Sir Alexander Burnes entered the Indus in 1831, was completely choked by mud, in 1836. A striking consequence of the changes produced by the shiftings of the mud and silt was presented to the notice of the mission after disembarking on the coast of Sindh:

"Here an opportunity was presented us of examining a square-rigged vessel, which had been embedded in the Delta of the Indus, and left, by the caprice of the river, on dry land, about twenty miles from the sea, near the fort of Vikkur, where it has lain since the time of the Calorais, the dynasty preceding that which now reigns in Sindh. This vessel, called 'Armat' by the Sindians, is about 70 feet long, and 28 in breadth: she seems to have been a brig of war, pierced for 14 guns, and capable of carrying not more than 200 tons English; her greatest draft of water, marked on the stern-post, being only 9 feet, which is less than is drawn by some of the present country boats of 40 tons (160 candelies). It is, however, obvious that the Indus was at one time entered by vessels of a different description from those now in use, as this half-fossilized ship, if I can so call her, amply proves. The word 'Armat' suggests the idea that the vessel was Portuguese, and that it is a corruption of Armada. There was also a Roman Catholic cross on the figure-head, and we know that the Portuguese burned Tatta in 1555, though this vessel, I imagine, belongs to a much later period of the history of that nation. We dug up from her hold six small brass guns, about twenty gun-barrels, and four hundred balls and shells, the latter filled with powder. These implements of war were found near the stern in the armoury, so that it is probable the vessel foundered: her position is now erect; and a large tamarisk tree grows out of her deck. The sailors call her 'Nou Khureed,' or the new purchase, and state her to have been left last century in her present site, where she remains a singular object."

Sindh, under the government of the Ameers, was one of the most miserable and unhappy countries in the East; we may, however, expect that it will soon improve, now that it has been added to the number of states dependent on Great Britain, especially as the change was

eagerly desired by the natives themselves. In the once flourishing, but now ruined emporium, Tatta, the embassy, found the inhabitants eager to obtain the blessings of British protection—"Blessings," says Jacquemont, "which cannot be appreciated, save by those who have witnessed the misery of the Hindoos under Mohammedan despots:—"

"We entered without pomp or suite; the inhabitants shouted out welcomes to us, and besought us to 'Come and people this desert;' one man said 'What is there to look at in this wilderness? come, and it will flourish under the English.' Others said, but more softly, that the rulers were blind; and a perfumer called out to us to purchase his rose-water, as there were no buyers left. They facetiously tell you that from Caráchee to Hydrabad, by land or by sea, there is nothing left to the poor man, and but half to the rich."

Shikarpoor was but little known when it was visited by the mission, and it engaged the attention due to a place which extends its commercial relations over Asia, from the frontiers of China, to those of Turkey:—

"Shikarpoor is a town of the first importance to the trade of the Indus. This does not result from any superiority in its home manufactures, but from its extensive money transactions, which establish a commercial connexion between it and many remote marts. It stands near the northern frontier of the Sindh territories, twenty-eight miles directly west of the Indus, and about the same distance from the fort of Bukkur. Towards the north the Sindh boundary extends to Rozan, on the road to Candahar and Kelat, by the well-known pass of Bolan: so that the merchants always speak of Shikarpoor and Pera Ghazee Khan, a town higher up, as the 'Gates of Khorasan'; by which name they here distinguish the kingdom of Cabool. In every direction commercial roads conduct the trade to Shikarpoor; but the communication is entirely carried on by land, although all the merchants of the town, great and small, agree in the opinion that their profits would be greatly increased, and their interests promoted, were a communication by water established."

Some difficulties arose early, from the incapacity of the orientals to comprehend the nature of a commercial mission:—

"One day, as we were proceeding rapidly through the water, we were followed by a man, and the extreme anxiety which he evinced induced me to stop the boat and listen to him. His request was that, as we had now become masters of the country, we should restore to him certain lands which had been wrested from his family in the time of Nadir Shah, and of which he still possessed the title-deeds; and, as statutes of limitation are unknown here, he assured us, again and again, that we had the power to do this if we had but the will. We found it impossible to persuade this man, or many others at different times, that we had no intention to interfere in domestic arrangements in this country, more than in any of the others with which we had treaties. It was in vain that I frequently explained the objects of my mission: some loudly expressed their astonishment; others, particularly the chiefs, listened to my declarations in silence, but almost all evidently disbelieved it."

During the voyage, Dr. Lord made several experiments to ascertain the quantity of silt held in solution by the waters of the Indus, and of the five rivers of the Panj-áb; the result will surprise many of our geological readers:—

"To make the quantity of water discharged round numbers, let us assume 300,000 cubic feet as the mean discharge per second. Let us take 300th, which is less than the experiments warrant, as the proportion of silt. This being a proportion by weight, let us take the specific gravity of silt at 2; which, being that of silica, is probably not far from the truth. The proportion by measure then will be 1500th, and from these premises it will follow that, for the seven months specified, the river discharges 300 cubic feet of mud in every second of time; or a quantity which, in that time, would suffice to form an island forty-two miles long, twenty-seven miles broad, and forty feet deep; which (the mean depth of the sea

on the coast being five fathoms) would consequently be elevated ten feet above the surface of the water. Any person who chooses to run out this calculation to hundreds and thousands of years will be able to satisfy himself that much may be done by causes at present in action towards manufacturing deltas."

The discovery of coal-measures on the Indus has already led to the extension of steam-navigation to that important river. This may, in its results, revolutionize the whole of Central Asia, and it certainly will remove some of the greatest impediments to trade, which arose from the tedious navigation in the ascent of the stream:—

"The mineral riches of Kala Bagh—its rock-salt, alum, and sulphur—require no further mention from me; but it is important that I should state that we here commenced a series of inquiries for coal, and that our search was crowned with complete success. It was found close to the town at Shukurdura and Muckud, and, ultimately, in no less than twelve localities, stretching in the direction of Cohat towards Ghuzni, along the salt-range after it has crossed the Indus, and lower down at Kanegoorum. Lieutenant Wood was also fortunate enough to discover it at three places on the eastern bank; Jon, Meealee, and Nummul, between Pind Dadun Khan and Kala Bagh, and at distances from twenty-five to fifty miles of the river. On both banks the localities in which the coal is found were similar, viz. in deep, dry water-courses, and the channels of winter torrents. Anthracite was also brought by my messengers from Jum-moo, high up the Chenab; and Dr. Lord procured coal at Kohal, on the north bank of the Oxus. I have not by me the analysis of the coal discovered by Lieutenant Wood; but Mr. James Prinsep, in reporting to Government on that found on the western bank, stated that 'four of the specimens were, in fact, of the very finest form of mineral coal, that in which all vegetable appearance is lost: of one of the specimens, a kind of jet, he remarked, 'that if found in sufficient quantities, it would not only answer well as a fuel, but be superior to all other coals for the particular object in getting up steam from the large proportion of inflammable gas it dis-engaged under combustion.' It is to be hoped that the time is not distant when these discoveries will be turned to good account by the British Government; and it is satisfactory to find, even at the present time, the enterprising Parsee merchants of Bombay navigating the Indus by steam as high as Kala Bagh, from which point, by means of land conveyance, they are enabled to supply the wants of Cabool."

On reaching Cabul, the mission found Dost Mohammed Khan perplexed with fears of invasion from the Persians, on one side, and the Sikhs on the other. We extract a brief account of the state of parties in Cabul, which will help to elucidate much of the course of subsequent events:—

"After the action at Jumrood with the Sikhs, both parties withdrew from the contest, and the presence of the British had therefore the good effect of putting an end to the horrors of war. Scarcely, however, had tranquillity dawned on the east, when the Persians invaded Afghanistan on the west, and besieged Herat, from which, as is well known, they only withdrew under an actual demonstration of our force in the Gulf of Persia; and in consequence of the threatening admonitions of the British Government. These circumstances had a prejudicial effect at Cabool, which was further heightened by the presence of an agent from Russia, who reached the place some time after my arrival. To the east the fears of Dost Mohammed Khan were allayed—to the west they were increased; and in this state of things his hopes were so worked upon, that the ultimate result was his estrangement from the British Government."

Cabul is now not less celebrated for its sword-blades, than Damascus was in the Middle Ages; but Sir Alexander Burnes describes some Persian blades which were superior to any produced by the Afghans. He adduces them as a proof of the great expense in which the chiefs of these wild tribes indulge to procure the best military equipment:—

"Some very fine blades were sent to us for our

inspection by a decayed widow lady, whose husband had been one of the former Dooranee lords. One of these scimitars was valued at 5,000 rupees, and the other two at 1,500 each. The first of these was an Ispahan sword, made by one Zaman, the pupil of Asad, and a slave of Abbas the Great. It was formed of what is called 'Akbarce steel,' and had belonged to Ghooram Shah Calora, of Sind, whose name was upon it, and was brought from that country during the wars of Mudad Khan. The especial cause of its great value was that the water could be traced upon it, like a skein of silk, down the entire length of the blade. Had this watering been interrupted by a curve or cross, the sword would have been comparatively valueless. The second was also a Persian sword of the water called 'Begumce.' The lines did not run down straight, but waved like a watered silk fabric. It had the name of Nadir Shah on it. The third was what is termed a 'Kara' (black) Khorasan blade, of the water named 'Bidr,' and came from Casveen. There were neither straight nor waving lines in it, but it was mottled with dark spots. All these swords were light and well-balanced; the most valuable one was the most curved: the steel in all the three tingled like a bell, and is said to improve by age. One test of the genuineness of a sword is, that it can be written upon with gold; others, more certain, are its cutting through a large bone, and severing a silk handkerchief when thrown into the air."

After a short residence in Cabul, Sir Alexander Burnes made an excursion into Kohistan, where he was hospitably entertained by the Tajiks. The share which these fierce mountaineers took in the recent atrocities, gives additional interest to the description of their peculiar habits and characteristics.

"It is a source of deep regret that this beautiful country should be inhabited by a race of men so turbulent and vindictive as the Tajiks have here proved themselves to be; and yet, throughout Afghanistan generally, these same Tajiks form the most peaceable classes of the population. Here, however, their blood-feuds are endless; a week never passes without strife or assassination, and I have been assured, on the best authority, that a man frequently remains immured in his own tower for two and three years from a fear of his enemies, leaving his wife to take care of his property, and discharge his duties; nay, that in some instances this duration has lasted for eight and ten years. It is rare to see a man go to bathe, hunt, or even ride out without a part of his clan attending him as a guard. Lately a strong government has in some respects softened down these asperities; but the retribution of blood, which the Mahomedan law allows, fatally perpetuates these sanguinary habits. 'Blood for blood' is their motto and their rule; and as they still rigidly follow it up, every fresh act of violence increases the number of feuds, and extends the misery resulting from them still more widely. Children born of different mothers and the same father are seldom cordial friends; and singular enough, the word 'turboor' among them has the double signification of cousin and rival. When any rebellion is excited, it is customary for the government to expel the traitor, and raise up his 'turboor' or cousin to govern in his stead. If you ask the natives of Kohistan why such desperate habits have become familiar to them, they will gravely tell you that they result from their heating diet of mulberries; that fruit, dried and pounded into flour, being the general food of the population. These people have the reputation of being the best foot-soldiers in Afghanistan, and from all I could learn they merit the distinction. They are a healthy and handsome race, and are alike fond of sport and of war. In time of need as many as twenty thousand of them have taken the field, well armed with flint-lock muskets. Dost Mohammed ruled them with a rod of iron, and has executed many of the principal men. Many others, to whom independence and lawless liberty were dearer than their possessions, have fled the country, and now cultivate fields among the fens of Kundooz and Balkh, voluntarily exposing themselves to poverty and hardship, rather than submit to any regularity of government in their native glens. In bygone times Nadir Shah himself is said to have been satisfied with a tribute of three hundred tent pins from Doornanu, one of their districts; and the kings of Cabool apportioned this country under

an easy tenure to their nobles, contenting themselves with the military services of the people. The present chief of Cabool has, on the contrary, been constrained, in order to maintain his power, to destroy many of their forts, which were scattered in clusters all over the valley, and is anxious to reduce the inhabitants to the state of citizens."

On his return to Cabul, Sir A. Burnes was agreeably surprised by the arrival of a messenger from Morad Beg, the clever but suspicious chief of Kunduz, whose asperity towards Europeans had been severely felt by Burnes himself in his former journey, and afterwards by Dr. Gerard and Mr. Vigne. Morad's brother was attacked by a disease which threatened total blindness, and he was anxious to obtain better advice than that of the native physicians. Dr. Lord and Lieut. Wood were sent to take advantage of the opening thus opportunely afforded; and it was on this occasion that Dr. Lord displayed the diplomatic talents which led to his rapid promotion and early death. The following extract from Dr. Lord's letter to Sir Alexander Burnes, gives an interesting account of his first interview with the formidable Morad Beg:—

"He appeared to us quite a plain, good old man; came outside his door and down his steps to receive us; gave us his hand, invited us in, and placed us at the top of the hall, while he himself sat down at one side, and those few courtiers who were allowed to sit occupied the other: the greater number stood below a couple of pillars which divided the upper from the lower end of the hall. The Mir then inquired after your health, and said it was an honour that Fringees had come to visit him. After a little conversation I produced your letter, which was read, and which he pronounced at its termination to be full of kindness. I then said you had sent some presents, of which, though not worthy of him, you begged his acceptance. This, he said, was quite unexpected.—our coming he looked on as a great thing, and never looked for anything more: on the presents being produced he examined each of them with much attention, appeared pleased, and, I heard afterwards from the Mirza, was highly satisfied. He then resumed the conversation, inquired about the relative size of Firingistan (Europe) and Hindostan, the nature of our power in the latter, and whether it had any other king than ours: this enabled me to mention the kings whom we had pensioned, with which he seemed much struck; and one of his Mirzas explained to him that it was the policy of the English, when they conquered a country, to keep in place those whom they found in it, by which means they avoided driving people to despair, and more easily attached them to their government. He then inquired whether the Russians or English were the cleverest: to which the same Mirza, a Peshawaree as I have since learned, at once replied that the English were far the cleverest people in all Firingistan; an assertion which I did not feel myself called on to contradict. After a little further conversation we took our leave, and I next went to visit my patient, and regret to say his case is almost hopeless, being amaurosis (gutta serena) complete and of eight years' standing in one eye, incomplete and of eighteen months' duration in the other. I have fairly informed him that I consider the former quite gone, and that I have but slender hopes of benefiting the latter; but that as his general health, and particularly his digestive powers, seem much impaired, I shall require some time to improve these before I give him a definite answer regarding the chances of recovering his eyesight. On this understanding I have commenced his treatment."

Though Dr. Lord was unable to effect a cure, both his patient and Morad Beg exhibited a lively gratitude for the attention he paid to the case, and a creditable resignation to unavoidable misfortune. In another letter the Doctor writes:

"You will be prepared to hear that I have given up my patient's case as hopeless; but the resignation with which this destruction of all his hopes of regaining his sight has been borne, both by himself and Mir Morad Beg, is far greater than either you or I could have anticipated, and in fact is such as to do high honour to the Uzbek character. I had from the first declared the case to be one of extreme difficulty; and,

latterly, told him that one after another of my remedies had proved ineffectual, and that the slight hope I originally might have had was daily becoming less. My final announcement he anticipated by sending me a message on the evening of the 17th to this effect:—'He felt it was written in his destiny that he was not to recover his sight; he was satisfied I had done everything possible, but that he was now resigned to the will of God, and content to go back to his own house convinced that a cure was not to be expected.' These were so nearly my own sentiments on the matter, that I did not offer much opposition. • • About 8 P.M., having heard that the Mir had finally determined no longer to struggle against his fate, I went over to take leave of him and offer such consolations as might occur to me. He expressed himself in every way satisfied with the exertions I had made, said he was under obligations which he never should forget, and begged I would continue his guest as long as it suited me to remain in the country, every part of which I was at liberty to visit. He added numerous other expressions of kindly feeling, and explained that he had given orders to Mousa Yessawul that all my wishes were to be attended to. He then reverted to his own melancholy condition, and losing all composure, burst into tears, accusing himself loudly of the many crimes he had committed, and acknowledging the hand of God in the judgment which had now overtaken him. The scene was a strange mixture of the pathetic and the ludicrous. I could not help sympathising sincerely with the poor old man and his son, a fine lad of fifteen, who shared deeply in his father's grief; but then every broad-faced Uzbek about the room, seeing his chief in tears, thought it incumbent on him to blubber a little also, and the wry faces some of them made in attempting to look melancholy was perfectly irresistible."

During his residence in Kunduz, Dr. Lord exerted himself to procure authentic information respecting the fate of the enterprising travellers, Moorcroft and Trebeck, and to recover their papers and memoranda. The following extract from his letter to Sir A. Burnes gives some particulars respecting the fate of these gentlemen; and the concluding paragraph is unfortunately applicable both to the amiable writer of the letter, and the person to whom it was addressed:

"I beg to subjoin a slip of paper which I found amongst a pile of loose accounts, and which bears, in Mr. Trebeck's writing, the following entry, date September 6th, 1825:—'Arrived at Balkh, August 25th. Mr. M. died August 27th.' This places the date of Mr. Moorcroft's death beyond a doubt; and also, I think, affords negative evidence against the supposition of its having been caused by any unfair means. But the same paper is further interesting from an accidental coincidence. The Mirza, I have before mentioned, accompanied me from Tash Koorghan to Muzar, and in the course of conversation, which naturally turned in a great measure on the melancholy fate of Moorcroft's party, he said that, about a month before the death of Trebeck, he had one day gone to him, by desire of the Khan, to purchase some pearls which he heard he had. Trebeck produced the pearls; but, when questioned about the price, said, in a desponding tone, 'Take them for what you please,—my heart is broken: what care I for price now!' The entry is this:—

Total on the strings 250 grs.
Oct. 15th. Taken by Mirza 131 grs. or 4 miskals.
" 16th. Taken by Dewan Beghee 33 grs. or 1 miskal.

"It will be observed no price is affixed: probably none was received. A stranger in a foreign land, far from the soothing voice of his countrymen or kinsfolk, surrounded by rude hordes, who looked on him as the only obstacle to possessing themselves of the countless treasures which they believed to be in his charge, his youthful spirit pined and sunk. The bright visions with which he had commenced his career had long since vanished; where he had looked for pleasures he had found toils; where for rest he had to guard against dangers; sickness had carried off many of the companions with whom he had set out; and when at last it struck his guide, his own familiar friend, to whom he looked for support under every adversity, and for rescue from every difficulty, —and when in addition he found that all hopes of

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return to his native land seemed, if not cut off, at least indefinitely deferred,—his heart, as he too truly says, was broken, and in a few short weeks he sunk into an untimely grave. I should apologise for a digression unsuited, I confess, to the character of an official paper, but it is impossible to hear the warm terms in which poor Trebeck is still mentioned by the rude natives among whom he died, without feeling the deepest sympathy in the fate of one who fell

‘So young, and yet so full of promise.’

So little is known of the Uzbecks, that we shall make some extracts from Dr. Lord's brief memoir on their manners and customs. Their laws relating to marriage are sufficiently curious:—

“Men here sell their wives if they get tired of them. This is by no means uncommon; but the man is obliged to make the first offer of her to her family, naming the price, which if they do not give, he is at liberty to sell her to any one else. On the death of a man his wives all become the property of his next brother; who may marry them or sell them, giving the pre-emption, as before, to their own families. Jándal, a Kaboollee Attari, to whom I spoke of the custom of selling wives, which I did not entirely credit, said, ‘I'll tell you what happened to myself. I was one day returning from Khanuabád; and, being overtaken by darkness, halted for the night at Turnáh, three kos short of this. After feeding my horse and going to the house for shelter, I found three men busily engaged; and, inquiring the subject of their conversation, was told that one of them was selling his wife to the other, but that they had not agreed about terms. Meantime, Khúda Bérí Ming, Bashi and chief of the village, came in, and whispered to me that, if I could go halves with him, he would purchase the woman, as he had seen her and found her very beautiful. I agreed, upon which we purchased her for seventy rupees, thirty-five each, and she went home with me for that night. Next morning Khúda Bérí came, and said that partnership in a woman was a bad thing, and asked me how I intended to manage. I said she should stay with me one month, and then go to him next. To that he would by no means agree; because, if sons or daughters were born, there would be disputes to know to whom they belonged. “In short,” said he, “either do you give me five rupees profit on my share, and take her altogether, or I will give you the same profit on your share, and she shall be altogether mine.” To this latter alternative I consented; and she is now living with him, as every one well knows. A man who has a daughter marriageable must give intimation of it to the Mir, who sends his chief eunuch to inspect her: if handsome, he takes her; if not, he gives permission that she should marry another.”

Their horse-races would perplex the jockeys of Epsom and Newmarket:—

“Horse-racing is a favourite amusement, and the horses for the purpose are generally trained for a fortnight or three weeks preceding; and they require this, for a race here is not a matter of one or two mile heats, but a regular continued run for twenty or twenty-five kos (forty or fifty miles) across the country, sometimes wading through morasses and swimming rivers, but more frequently crossing their magnificent extended plains: one of which, as level as our best race-courses and with a beautiful green turf covering, not unfrequently extends the entire distance to be run. The scene on these occasions is highly animated, as not only the racers, generally about twenty in number, set off, but the whole of the sporting assembly, perhaps 100, or even 500 in number, accompany them, at least for the first three or four miles. A judge has been sent on in advance; and the competitors seldom return till the next day. The prizes are certainly worthy some exertion; and in one case, when the donor was a man of good substance, they were as follows: the first, and most classical, was a young maiden, generally a Huzarah or Chitráí, both prized for their personal attractions; the second, fifty sheep; the third, a boy; the fourth, a horse; the fifth, a camel; the sixth, a cow; and the seventh, a *water-melon*, the winner of which becomes an object of ridicule and banter for the rest of the meeting. Another and more amusing kind of race is the following:—One man places a goat on the horse before him, and sets off at full gallop;

fifteen or twenty others immediately start off after him, and whichever of these can seize the goat, and get safe off with it beyond the reach of the rest, retains it for his prize. The rapidity with which the goat sometimes changes masters is very laughable; but the poor animal is occasionally torn to pieces in the scuffle.”

Doctor Lord had the good fortune to procure several valuable Bactrian antiquities, and, among others, a coin, which as yet is unique. With the lively paragraph announcing his discovery, we shall conclude our extracts from these interesting records of a country which, previous to the lamented describer's visit, was cautiously guarded from research and investigation:—

“Pends-toi, brave Crillon; nous avons combattu, et tu n'étais pas. I have got such an Eucratides! The great king, Eucratides, with a helmeted head on the obverse (God knows, it may be reverse for all I know), and on the other side the same king with a more melancholy expression of countenance,—no doubt of the cause, for this time he is accompanied by his wife,—two busts on one side, inscription of Eucratides, the son of Heliocles and Laodice. There's something for an article in *Prinsep* for you.”

Whilst Dr. Lord was in Kunduz, Sir A. Burnes engaged in very extensive inquiries respecting the various nations which are neighbours to the Afghans; and he gleaned some valuable information respecting these remote tribes; but we are more interested in his account of life in Cabool, and we therefore turn to his description of the ladies of that city:—

“Talking one day with Jubar Khan, the name of Hufa Begum, the celebrated Queen of Shah Shoojah, who had just died, was mentioned, and a remark was made that she was a very clever woman, and had left a good deal of money behind her. ‘That,’ said the Nawab with great emphasis, ‘is the clearest possible proof of her ability.’ I fear this is a standard by which the ladies of the Western world have no wish to be tried. Both the Nawab and his brother the ruler have, however, credit for managing their ladies economically. The Nawab, generous to a fault to Christian, Jew, or Mahomedan, is blamed for denying to his wives liberal pin-money, or, as it is amusingly called in this country, ‘Soorkee-sufedee,’ rouge and white paint allowance, with both which cosmetics the ladies here adorn themselves. But I must not thus lightly pass over so important a part of the population of Cabool as the ladies. Their ghost-like figures when they walk abroad make one melancholy; but if all be true of them that is reported, they make ample amends when within-doors for all such sombre exhibitions in public. There, during the long winters, they gather round the ‘Sundlee,’ a kind of low square table, covered with cloth, and heated from below by charcoal, and tell stories and make merry. They have a saying that the indoor joys of Cabool in winter make every one regardless of the enemy without. Among the Afghans, women exercise considerable influence at least: Dost Mahomed Khan, at a time when he was very anxious as to the conduct of his brothers at Candahar, addressed a letter to his sister, who was there also, and urged her to keep them in the proper course; thus proving that even in important matters of state their judgment and discretion are resorted to.”

Sir Alexander Burnes gives but a very brief account of the circumstances which led to the return of the mission; but he seems to hint, that he did not quite approve of the course of policy pursued towards Dost Mohammed Khan:—

“The ruler of Cabool, Dost Mahomed Khan, partook at this time of the impatience common to his nation; and, some may perhaps say, not without sufficient cause. Herat was closely besieged by Persia. Should it fall, the danger to Candahar and Cabool was apparent: should it be successful, and repulse Persia, that danger still existed to Cabool. The British Government, confident in the success of its measures in Persia, placed no value on an Afghan alliance. Fear, therefore, overtook Dost Mahomed, and it was seconded by appeals to his interest; and thus two of the most powerful motives which influence the human mind inclined the chief to look for support to the west instead of the east.

Having clearly ascertained that such were his views, there was no room for doubt as to the line of conduct which it was expedient for me to adopt; and I accordingly intimated to him my intention of returning to India. He expressed great regret at my decision; and when, on the 26th of April, I finally quitted Cabool, he was profuse in his professions of personal friendship and regard.”

The mission returned down the Cabool river, where the gentlemen had an opportunity of observing the manner in which gold is obtained from the auriferous sands:—

“On the banks of the river the villagers were washing the sands for gold in the usual manner, the operation being carried on in wooden trays. I heard from them that in the Oxus and its tributaries it is usual to spread out and fix bushy sheep-skins in the bed of the river; and the water, as it passes over them, leaves the pure particles of gold, free from extraneous substances; the skins are then dried in the sun, and the precious metal collected from them.”

Several valuable memoirs, including an elaborate Report, by Lieut. Wood, on the Navigation of the Indus, are subjoined to the narrative; but, under present circumstances, the greater interest will attach to the notes on Cabul. It seems probable, from Sir A. Burnes's account, that the Uzbecks will not join the Afghans in resisting the British:—

“To the north of Cabool the mountainous regions of Hindoo Koosh make it difficult for the chief to extend his power, or for others to invade him. The ruler of Koondooz, Meer Moorád Beg, has no feeling of cordiality towards Dost Mahomed Khan. This arises from fear of his power; for, if unemployed elsewhere, the chief of Cabool could no doubt make a successful inroad upon him. Moorád Beg excels more in a foray than in war. He might make a ‘chuppao’ on Bámeecán, but the retaliation would be ruinous to himself. The independent Uzbek states, west of Koondooz and Balkh, such as Siripool, Shibberghan, and Maimuna, keep up little or no understanding or union with one another, and would fall a prey to the first power that attacked them. Bokhárá, to the north, is protected by its remote situation in the desert, and the character for commerce and religion which it possesses. The ruler of it lately sent an envoy to Cabool to congratulate the chief on the successful issue of his wars with the Sikhs. The Meer of Koondooz divined, and probably not erroneously, evils to himself from a league that places him between two powers, either of which separately might crush him, but whose ability to do so is undoubted when bound together by friendly ties. Moorád Beg therefore resented the formation of this alliance, first by threatening to seize the envoy, and next by shutting up the road of the caravan; but his suspicions have been removed, or at least lulled for a time, and an exchange of presents and friendly expressions has passed between the chiefs of Cabool and Koondooz.”

The character of Dost Mohammed is shrewdly drawn, and it is scarcely possible to read the account of it without some regret for the policy which led to the deposing of such a man, and the elevation of an imbecile debauchee like Shah Shoojah.

“Dost Mahomed's comprehension is quick; his knowledge of character very great; and he cannot be long deceived. He listens to every individual who complains, and with a forbearance and temper which are more highly praised than his equity and justice. In matters of a trifling nature he still follows the law (Shura); but in greater things his necessities have tarnished his decisions, although, as these affect only the wealthier and least numerous portion of his subjects, his doing so has not occasioned general dissatisfaction. Nothing marks the man's superiority more than the ability with which he manages all around him, as he does, with powers and resources so crippled. His patience and delays bespeak ambition; and as a rash act might be fatal to him, his caution is extreme, and his suspicion so easily excited as to amount almost to infirmity, although self-reflection brings back with it his self-confidence. A peace with his eastern neighbours would certainly render the power of the Ameer durable, and enable him to reduce his army and expenses; but as his fame has out-

stripped his power, he may rather covet the dominions of those western neighbours than their friendship. If he were less exacting, and such as he was before he came in contact with the Sikhs, he might consolidate his power. Whether his religious wars and government have resulted from a strong spirit of orthodoxy or from ambition is a question yet to be solved."

Dost Mohammed's commercial regulations, though rather onerous, pressed less heavily on merchants than those of the neighbouring rulers:

"When state expediency renders it necessary to demand a greater amount of duties than usage has authorized, commerce must receive a check. At this time the transit duty of this country still continues to increase; and it must have become greater even than it is, had it not been for the burthens which press upon it. Some grievances, however, have been got rid of by the custom-house being no longer formed and managed directly under the chief. Cabool can no longer boast of taking only one in forty, like Bokhara; but as compared with Persia, Herat, Candahar, and the Punjab, Cabool is yet spoken of in terms of approbation by the trading community. A Jew from Blawulpoor, whose authority ought to be good, declared to me 'that the treatment of merchants in Cabool was as under the kings of Israel; that the Afghans were free from prejudices, behaved well, did not overtax them, and that the duties which the Ameer had lately demanded were such as any ruler who was under difficulties was justified in demanding.' It strikes an European with surprise that any merchants should frequent marts where the duties are so liable to be changed; but there are certain broad lines which the ruler must never overstep, or the channel of commerce by his country would be deserted. This has not been lost sight of; and the custom-house duties of Cabool now yield two lacs and twenty-two thousand rupees per annum, while it was formerly but eighty-two thousand, nor can more than fifteen or twenty thousand of these receipts be attributed to increased duties. At the present time the profit on English goods brought from India to Cabool is rated at fifty per cent., and if they are pushed on to Bokhara, they give a cent. per cent. return. The shawls of Cashmere, which are sent to Persia and Turkey, pass through Cabool and Bokhara to Meshid, the merchants preferring this circuitous road to the exactions which they are sure to experience in Candahar and Herat."

We shall not indulge in any of the speculations which these 'Notes on Cabul,' written before the commencement of the Afghan war, are calculated to suggest. Ere long, the public must be in possession of authentic materials to form a correct judgment of the line of policy adopted by the government of British India, and it would be obviously unfair to praise or censure until more perfect evidence is before us. Still we must say, that the present work, and more especially its Appendix, is calculated to raise some uneasy doubts respecting both the prudence and the justice of the determination taken to restore Shah Soojah. *Hæc fonte derivata clades:* the experience of Europe, as well as of Asia, has long ago demonstrated, that the very worst revolution which can befall any country is the restoration of an exiled dynasty; more especially when it is effected by means of foreign intervention.

The War in Syria. By Commodore Sir C. Napier. 2 vols. Parker.

THESE volumes are personal or political from beginning to end—it is scarcely possible to touch them without risk of embroilment. From the first page to the last the Commodore has something or somebody to find fault with—the Admiral is wrong, the Ambassador wrong, and not only wrong in their general policy, but in every specific act and action. Fortunately, Sir Charles has large and liberal notions of the duties of subordinates—"it is necessary," he says, "and quite justifiable for an officer to take responsibility in unforeseen cases, running, of course, the risk of answering for consequences;" and as

the Admiral was uninformed, and the Ambassador uninformed, these "unforeseen cases" were of constant recurrence, and to this licence, or liberty, the English people are indebted for the triumphs of Sidon and Boharsof, and for the Convention which settled the Eastern question. All this may be true, but we would rather have heard it from others. It is due, however, to Sir Charles to acknowledge that he does make out a strong case in his own favour, and the result is, a conviction on the mind of the reader, that a straightforward policy, either in fighting or negotiating, would have brought the dispute to a close without difficulty, or without those delays, which threatened at one time to embroil all Europe. So far, however, as the reading public are concerned, the work is of little interest; the writer is so wholly engrossed with his subject, that there are not half a dozen occasions on which he is tempted to pause, either by men, manners, scenes, or scenery, or even to give the reader or himself a moment's breathing time. Mount Lebanon may be considered as the only exception—and even there the Commodore overtops the mountain itself:—

"It was rather a new occurrence for a British Commodore to be on the top of Mount Lebanon commanding a Turkish army, and preparing to fight a battle that would decide the fate of Syria; but the very novelty was exciting to a degree. I was in my glory; standing on an eminence, surrounded by the general officers and my own staff, I fancied myself a great Commander."

Afterwards, indeed, he has a few sober words on the subject:—

"I have travelled in Switzerland and in the Tyrol, and admired the romantic scenery that you meet with in these fine countries; but still I give the preference to Mount Lebanon. The whole country is one mass of rocks heaped one on the other; and every spot of land, capable of cultivation, is supported by terraces, and irrigated by streams of water from springs, which are abundant in the mountain. On these terraces the mulberry-tree is cultivated with great care, and grows with much luxuriance. Fruit and vegetables of every description are grown in great abundance. The mountains produce only a sufficient quantity of grain for three months' consumption; the other nine months are supplied either from the plains of the Bekan, or by importation. The roads throughout the mountain are purposely bad, to render the passage of artillery impracticable. This assists the mountaineers in the defence of their country. The mountain passes are strong, and if bravely defended by peasants alone, no army, ever so well disciplined, could obtain possession of them without immense loss. On approaching Amanah, we descried armed peasantry stationed on the various heights to prevent surprise; and on our arrival at the court-yard of the chateau in which the Grand Prince was lodged, some hundreds of men were lounging about in the gay attire of the mountains, armed at all points. Many horsemen were also in the court-yard, ready to be despatched to any point whence an attack might be apprehended. On entering the chateau, which certainly had not much the appearance of the residence of a Prince, I was immediately ushered into his presence. The old man was sitting cross-legged, smoking his pipe, but immediately rose and embraced me with much warmth, calling me his friend, his protector and master; praising, with much apparent warmth, the English, who had come to release the mountaineers from the oppression of Mehemit Ali. Pipes and coffee were then produced, and after puffing away for a few minutes, the room was cleared, and an interpreter sent for."

He once again visited the mountains, to see the position from which he had driven Ibrahim Pacha, and, on this occasion, he introduces us to the wife and family of the Emir:—

"After going over the ground, we partook of the hospitality of Padre Rylo, at Bechfaya. He had been an officer in the Polish army; and, after witnessing the destruction of his country, became a priest, and took refuge in the mountains of Lebanon.

He was a most useful and intelligent man; had a large correspondence through the country, and was most serviceable in procuring information. Besides the Padre, there were half a dozen more priests in the convent, French and Italians, who possessed great influence in the mountains, and turned their attention to the education of the people."

"After enjoying a good dinner, we mounted our horses, and proceeded along the summit of the mountains leading to Brumamah. * * * We were well received by the wife of the Emir of the place, whose name I do not recollect; she was mother to the wife of the Emir Beehir Cassim. We had a tolerable dinner served on a low table; and were afterwards invited into the ladies' apartment, where were seated the Princess and her two daughters, smoking their pipes, dressed out in all their finery. The three ladies wore horns on their heads, studded with jewels, about two feet and a half long, over which were hung veils, the horn richly ornamented. The old lady had lost her beauty, but not her dignity. The husband of the eldest daughter was a prisoner in Nubia; and when she heard I was going off to Alexandria, she implored me to obtain his release; she was a determined smoker, and frequently handed me her pipe. The second daughter was unmarried and handsome, and also treated me occasionally with a whiff, which is considered a high compliment on the mountains. After a good deal of conversation through the medium of an interpreter, we were served with coffee; the ladies then retired, and we followed their example."

We now leave the work to professional criticism. It will, we doubt not, give rise to some angry discussions.

CHILDREN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION.

First Report of the Commissioners. Appendix to Report. Presented by Her Majesty's Command to both Houses of Parliament.

(Second Notice.)

To the moral and educational condition of the mining population the Commissioners' Report does not extend. A second part is to be devoted to it. As, however, the Reports of some of the Assistant Commissioners fully develop the branch of the inquiry, and as it appears to us to be of primary moment, we shall at once complete our sketch of the subject.

As respects the morals of those colliers where no females are employed, some difference exists in different parts of the country. Much improvement in morals is remarked in Derbyshire by Mr. Fellows, in South Gloucestershire and in South Wales by Messrs. Waring, Franks, and R. W. Jones. In North Wales Mr. Herbert Jones deduces from his evidence the gratifying facts, that "everywhere the Sabbath is decently and indeed religiously observed; that swearing is not common, and the moral state much improved; the children well conducted, and in general free from vice, though in manners and external appearance they are uncouth, and their mental cultivation is neglected." Neither in the large collieries of South Yorkshire does Mr. Symons report any peculiar amount of immorality. "The vices (he says) of the children are decidedly less than those of the manufacturing class."

We have, however, here given nearly all the light of the picture: the remainder "lies in gloom—shadows and darkness resting on it."

Mr. Tancred speaks of the "utterly depraved state in which a large portion of the colliery and ironwork hands in the West of Scotland are living." In Northumberland Mr. Leifchild reports the "habitual vice of lying and deceit." The clergy generally concur in characterizing morals as "very bad, education almost none, and intellect debased." Mr. William Morison an intelligent witness, thus embodies a description of collier vices, which equally applies to the majority of districts:—

"The prominent vices of colliers are gambling and intemperance. The gambling consists in cock and dog fighting, bowling, card playing, and chuck

penny. Examples instances of a dog, or a such profligate same. Mis comfort and dogs are obtained also kept hands of tr although a amongst the ing men, te tifying imp It assum periodical habitual d Among habits, nu districts to sexes in co sity for so familiar w should be same evil amined by "We h William a me and Be Betty and and Joe is Their c generally land prop Elliott, of speaking "The sp presents a dunghill— in summer the side o large oven, the filthy it were, op families?" In the the moral assume a nights of of Scotla states, " mines is classes o the daug pits." Crantent, are dirty as I sho fowls and houses." infested children. to the c (ter) fan ter) ar deduc a by the stench" to a cou honest Mr. S comfort hearted remain have spe fitted fo on the says.— "The and obsc at their be const men and gasting

penny. Each is often carried to a fearful extent. Instances are not wanting of a whole month's earnings of a man and his sons being staked on a cock, a dog, or a favourite bowler. The consequences of such profligacy are, whether in losing or winning, the same. Misery, destitution, and dirt prevail, where comfort and affluence might have been. Cocks and dogs are either bought or stolen, and in either case, are obtained at considerable cost. The cocks are also kept at a great expense, being always in the hands of trainers. Drunkenness is not the worst, although a very prominent vice in pitmen; and amongst them, as amongst all other classes of labouring men, teetotal principles have effected most gratifying improvement."

It assumes, it appears, more the character of periodical debauches after pay-days, than of habitual drinking.

Among the vicious characteristics of collier habits, much immorality is attributed in many districts to the herding of all ages and both sexes in common sleeping rooms, and the necessity for so much ablution makes the inmates familiar with spectacles not so decent as they should be. In Lancashire and Yorkshire the same evil prevails. James Wyld, aged 13, examined by Mr. Kennedy, near Oldham, says,—

"We have two rooms. My father and mother, William and Sally [six years old] sleep in one bed; me and Betty and Joe in the other.—What ages are Betty and Joe? Betty is about 16 or 17 years old, and Joe is 15 years. We all sleep in one bed."

Their characteristic and household habits are generally of a debasing tendency, to which the land proprietors seldom apply a corrective. Dr. Elliott, of Newcastle, and other witnesses, in speaking of collier villages, say:—

"The space between each two rows of back doors, presents along the centre one long ash-heap and dung-hill—generally the playground of the children in summer, with a coal-heap, and often a pig-stye at the side of each door. Each row generally has a large oven, common to all its occupants. May not the filthy habits thus engendered, and ingrained as it were, operate in brutalizing the pitmen and their families?"

In the districts where female labour prevails, the morals and habits of the whole community assume a far deeper degradation. "Days and nights of beastly inebriety" prevail in the East of Scotland, and Mr. Franks in his conclusions states, "that the employment of females in mines is so degrading and immoral, that other classes of operatives refuse intermarriage with the daughters of colliers who are wrought in the pits." Of their debasement Mr. Nimmo, of Tranent, says, "the collier people in this town are dirty to extreme; their houses are not such as I should like to feed pigs in. Most keep fowls and ducks, and many pigs are kept in the houses." As might be expected, these hovels are infested with vermin, as are the persons of the children. To the horrible absence of attention to the common domestic duties (perpetuated from family to family, from mother to daughter) are these evils primarily attributed, producing a moral devastation graphically pictured by the "squalid aspect, and unwholesome stench" of the abodes of a people "abandoned to a course of life which has blunted the commonest perceptions of human comfort."

Mr. Symons speaks favourably of the general comfort of colliers' homes, and of the kindly-heartedness of Yorkshire mothers, who rarely remain in the pits after marriage. They who have spent their childhood there are always unfitted for housewifery. Mr. Scriven, reporting on the Halifax and Bradford female colliers, says,—

"They are to be found alike vulgar in manner and obscene in language: but who can feel surprise at their debased condition when they are known to be constantly associated, and associated only, with men and boys, living and labouring in a state of disgusting nakedness and brutality, while they have

themselves no other garment than a ragged shift, or, in the absence of that, a pair of broken trousers to cover their persons?"

There seems to be no fouler degradation than in Lancashire. The profligacy is spoken of as awful by all classes of witnesses: indeed, the manners and morals of the community underground are described with so much graphic truth by some of the witnesses, that we cannot quote it.

In short, Mr. Kennedy produces ample evidence wherewith to support his conclusion that the passive relaxations of the Lancashire colliers exhibit abject indolence, amidst filth, gross sensuality, and drunkenness, whilst their active amusements are those of the most barbarous periods of history, and of people universally regarded as savages. Filth outside, squalid children and savage bull-dogs within, characterize their abodes. Mr. Fletcher, reporting on another part of Lancashire, terms the colliers "the rudest portion of a dense population proverbially rude and ignorant; one almost uninfluenced, morally, by the example or the labours of any higher class; and one for the moral and intellectual cultivation of which there is, in reality, no public provision. Prone to exhibit instances of ferocity and of gross self-indulgence: and yet the universal testimony is to the improvement which has already taken place upon the manners of the passing generation."

Let us now turn to the education of the Children of the Mines. Education, of which the very name is a standard mockery applied to the instruction which our national enlightenment vouchsafes to the mental necessities of the great masses of the poor: and alien indeed from the incidents of a life of which the only transition is from uninstructed and infant idleness to dark and daily toil; exhausting the body amidst pollutions of mind, precluding all power to teach and leisure to learn, and which neither requires energy of mind nor provokes the spirit of inquiry.

Mr. P. Kirkhouse, overman to the Cyfarthfa Collieries and Ironstone Mines, in Monmouthshire, states that—

"Few of the young people have received the most ordinary education; one-fourth probably of the 400 may read or know their letters, certainly not more; and that they have acquired at Sunday-schools."

Mr. William James, agent to the Woodfield Colliery, "considers the rising more ignorant than the present generation." In South Wales education is represented to be "lamentably defective," by Mr. Franks, and even in North Wales, first in morals, Mr. Herbert Jones reports, that "amongst the collier boys not one in ten can read with anything approaching correctness, or so as to comprehend the sense of what he reads; those in the mines are almost, though not quite, as illiterate, probably because they do not go to work so early. Both classes are, however, utterly ignorant." In South Gloucestershire a more extended knowledge of religion and reading prevails; but the "art of writing is rarely possessed," and to many the Sabbath is a day of "wearisome vacuity."

The chief resource is that of Sunday-schools, and profitable schooling they seem to afford:—

"I asked a very good reader (says Mr. Fellows, in a Derbyshire Sunday-school,) what was the meaning of the word *weary*: he could not tell; I then appealed to the whole class; at last a boy said he knew—it was a lad who wore his clothes out." Dr. Mitchell laments the growth, in South Durham, of pit engine chimneys, without a due accompaniment of church steeples. "One-fourth of the colliers attend no religious worship."

Mr. Symons visits an endowed day and Sunday school at Rawmarsh, Yorkshire:—

"They none of them gave any reply to the question why Christ came? One only told me why he

died. The two who had been two and three years at the school repeated the Church catechism very glibly, and so fast that I could hardly understand what they uttered. None, however, could give the least explanation what the words 'inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven' meant, nor could they tell what the Commandments of God signified. To the question what they understood by 'the pomps and vanities,' one replied, 'of this wicked world,' that being the sequel suggested by his memory. A girl on another occasion said, 'ribbons, please Sir.' After much questioning another replied that vanities meant 'wise things.' They spelt nearly every word wrongly I put to them, and knew scarcely any arithmetic at all."

In another Church Sunday school at Silkstone,—

"Three girls (all employed in the pits) of the ages of 16, 15, and 11, were next examined, not one of whom could read easy words without constant spelling, and two of whom knew their letters imperfectly. I found two of these girls perfectly ignorant. They had no knowledge even of the existence of a Saviour, and assured both the curate and myself that they had not heard about Christ at all. They had been very little at school at all. The third had some slight knowledge of Christian truths."

Bessy Bailey, aged 15 (pit-girl), Yorkshire, has been three years at Sunday school, and goes to Chapel every Sunday evening, because she thinks it the best place on Sunday nights. Cannot read much. "Jesus Christ died for his son to be saved. Doesn't know who the Apostles were. 22d. is 3s. 4d. Doesn't know how many weeks there are in the year, nor what Ireland is."

John Saville, 7 years old, examined at Sheffield:—

"I go to Park Sunday-school (Wesleyan), and they teach me writing, but they don't teach me my letters. I go to chapel every Sunday; I don't know who made the world; I never heard about God. This boy cannot write or tell one letter."

Thomas Scriven, aged 13, examined by Mr. Scriven, near Halifax:—

"I don't know what you mean by *uncle*; I never heard of *Jesus Christ*; I don't know what you mean by *God*; I never heard of *Adam*; or know what you mean by *Scriptures*. I have heard of a Bible, but don't know what 'tis about. If I tell a lie, I don't know whether 'tis good or bad."

And lest Mr. Scriven should be uncomfortably nonplused at this evidence of the religious enlightenment of Her Majesty's subjects in Yorkshire, Mr. Wilcox, the proprietor of the coal pit, obligingly adds:—

"You have expressed some surprise at Thomas Mitchell not having heard of God. I judge [he continues] that there are very few colliers hereabout that have. There is a Sunday-school in the village, at which some of them go, but it does not advance them in learning much."

James Taylor, aged 11, examined in Lancashire, by Mr. Fletcher:—

"Goes to no school; never went to a day-school; went to the Old Methodist Sunday-school five months ago. Cannot say his letters. Has heard of hell in the pit when the men swear; has never heard of Jesus Christ; has never heard of God, but has heard the men in the pit say 'G—d—th—' thee.' Does not know what county he is in; has never been anywhere but here, i' th' pit, and at Rochdale; never heard of London; has heard of the Queen, but dunnot know who he is."

As a rule, colliers, says Mr. Kennedy, can neither read nor write.

Education is going on quite as prosperously in Scotland. Alexander Gray, aged 10, of Sir J. H. Hope's New Creighall Colliery,—

"Can go the length of some of the Questions: the teacher taught me. I know who made the heaven and earth—it was God: our Saviour was his Son. The Devil is sin: sin is any want of conformity to the law of God; so it says in my Questions. I don't know what conformity is, nor the law of God."

This is the climax of collier education, where the child has been long enough in the ruts of rote learning to be able to reply like a parrot to set

questions, and which he would do with equal comprehension of the sense of what he repeated, were his catechism in high Dutch. "On being questioned as to the meaning of what they read, they stare with astonishment," says the Yorkshire Commissioner.

The general utility of the existing schools may be guessed from the fact, that in Northumberland, where more than the average attention is paid to what is called education, if a collier becomes maimed and unable to work, who can write and read, he is considered *de facto* entitled to the office of schoolmaster, should it be vacant. A witness in Mr. Fletcher's district cuts the matter short, and remarks that, "generally for obtaining any knowledge that will be of use to them in after life, they might just as well go to a coal-pit as a school." On the inefficiency of Sunday schooling, the Rev. W. Walker, of Oldham, in his evidence to Mr. Fletcher, thus sensibly describes their defects:—

"As a means of religious instruction, it is obvious that schools, composed as these are, must be imperfect in the extreme. As secular schools, they do harm by lowering the people's estimation of the value of secular instruction, and making them contented with less than they ought to have. Being gratuitous, too, Sunday-school instruction is not valued so much as if it were paid for; and the interval of six days between each day of instruction delays the attainment of any obviously good result. In many schools, too, the teachers will attend by rotation only once a month, and each may be carrying on a separate system. If the Sunday-schools, however insufficient they are, were not to supply something, there is not sufficient desire for instruction among the people to make a demand for teachers at any time or in any form during the week. In the Sunday-schools of the dissenting congregations the same deficiencies exist, and the ministers of those congregations neither do nor can pay much attention to them."

The parents are themselves ignorant; and the Rev. Mr. Walker thus sums up the everliving root of the whole evil:—

"When the children come to about seven years of age, they are too useful to be allowed to come to school during the week; and many even go out to nurse or hire so young as five. So soon as the children can nurse a child, push a coal-tub, or perform the least service, immediately they are employed, in the eagerness to profit by their labour in good times, to meet the necessities of a family in bad ones; and in the prevailing want among the parents of any appreciation of the value of instruction when there is any appreciation of it whatever, they think that the necessity is sufficiently met by the Sunday-schools."

The indifference of ignorance to knowledge is far from surprising; but it is, to our minds, one of the most painful of the manifold causes for lamentation afforded by this inquiry, that there should exist so reckless and heartless an indifference on the part of the employers of labour in mines, as to have tolerated this chaos of degradation and darkness. They are reputed to be ignorant of what passes in their mines. The greater their blame! Why are they ignorant of what it appertains to their position to know? If they do not know their duty to their neighbours, nor even the moral claims on them of those whose muscles are daily strained, and whose lives are hourly perilled in their service, why do not the clergy teach it them? The answer is, that the clergy are, for the most part, as ignorant of the miners, as are their masters. "At present," says the Rev. Mr. Roberts, incumbent of St. George's, Barnsley, "I have no means of getting at them to pay them pastoral visits, though there are many in a state of heathenism around us, owing to their being in the pits all day, and being tired at night." And though, with every disposition to do so, neither of the clergy of this centre of some of the worst abuses of collieries could give Mr. Symons satisfactory information of the moral condition of that portion of their

parishioners, of whom upwards of twenty have met with sudden deaths in their fearful calling since Mr. S.'s visit, in that single parish!

"In very few fields (says Mr. Fellows) could I obtain any assistance from the clergy, who themselves rarely have an opportunity of even seeing, much more conversing with, either the colliers or their children (excepting now and then at a Sunday-school)."

In almost every district where an improvement is noted in the morals or religious habits of the miners, it is attributed to the efforts of the Methodists; especially in Northumberland and Wales, and in parts of Lancashire. Mr. Waring also states that, in Gloucestershire,—

"The labours of those great reformers of life and manners, the celebrated Wesley and Whitfield, began a work which has been making progress ever since, in the hands of not only their disciples, but those of the National Church, happily aroused and stimulated by their example."

As to the care of the coal-masters for the religious instruction of their people,—

"In the numerous new collieries (in Northumberland), remarks one of the chief viewers, George Johnson, Esq., (No. 3) 'the Place of Worship and Schools are generally the last things established or even thought of.'"

A Mr. Emmet, a coal-proprietor, near Halifax, states, in his evidence to Mr. Scriven, that—

"He knows nothing of their moral condition; does not know whether they attend Sunday-schools, or a place of worship; he knows what the men are, but he is not bound to tell, because he may please himself about that; when I come over I may find out myself if I can find them; he does not hold himself responsible for anything that occurs with regard to the boys."

The insolence of this is singular, the ignorance by no means so; it is a correct representation of the ordinary amount of knowledge on the subject possessed by coal-proprietors. There are, of course, many exceptions; but such is the well attested rule.

The commissioners draw several conclusions from the physical portion of the evidence, to the effect that children work at very young ages, from five upwards, that the hours of work are rarely less than eleven, but more often twelve; that night work is an ordinary system of labour; that females are largely employed in some districts, both sexes often working nearly naked; that in general the children are not ill-treated by persons in authority, but are roughly used by their elder companions; and that in some cases both sexes draw with the girdle and chain; that insufficient care to prevent accidents is taken; that the health of the children is not usually impaired though the seeds of painful disease are then sown, which develop themselves in after life, and extinguish life usually at fifty years of age.

The moral and mental condition of the children as well as the adults, we gather from the Reports of the Sub-Commissioners to be almost universally deplorable.

We must now close this interesting subject with a few remarks on the remedies which these painful facts suggest to our minds.

The inquiry portrays no inconsiderable portion of the working classes living under circumstances of toil, peril, and seclusion, peculiarly requiring the vigilant care and protection of those who employ them, yet left, on the contrary, more unprotected, unprotected, and uncared for than any other class of working people in the United Kingdom. Dangers the most imminent, incidental to the work, have ensured no adequate means of preservation; and in many instances no attempt to apply them! Labour and locality essentially degrading, have been signally unaccompanied by efforts to counteract their tendency. On the contrary, the darkness of the collieries has been rivalled only by that of the minds of the colliers.

The Legislature has now a duty to perform,

which its interposition in factories leaves it no option to neglect.

The following remarks of a practical and benevolent coal-owner in Yorkshire, appear to us to embody the best feasible regulations for the physical amendment of the condition of miners, as relates to two great primary points; viz. ages and hours:—

"If the Government wishes to regulate the hours pits work, I believe they can do it no other way than by regulating the hours coals are drawn by the engine; and nine hours ought to be allowed for pulling coals exclusive of meal-time, and pulling, the men. Taking one with another, if this were done, no man or boy will remain in the pit longer than nine hours. Relays of boys would be very awkward. Many pits are drawn by horses, and they could not manage it at all. We don't admit small children to come up and down together alone, and it would take too much time and trouble to let a man go up and down with them. Let the doctor have power to stop a child he thinks too little and too young to go, and stop the whole time. I would sooner do without lads than have two sets."—Evidence of Mr. W. Bedford, near Drighlington.

The inspection of mines would be a difficult and perilous undertaking; at the same time it is desirable this should be ultimately done. As to the powers to be given to inspectors, it strikes us that the best mode of effecting it, is that the inspectors should be empowered to warn the proprietors of any defect in tackle or ventilation, and in the result of an accident occurring through the defect thus pointed out, to levy a heavy fine on the owners. This would entirely obviate the possibility of vexatious interference, and confine punishment to the cases where it had been proved to be needed. The proper height of the passages would be secured by preventing very young children from working.

A prohibition of female labour, and of the employment of children under a certain age in mines at once, and for more than nine hours, appear to be imperatively needed.

The Rev. Mr. Collins, the incumbent of Osset, West Yorkshire, says respecting education:—

"I decidedly think that the Factory Act ought to provide that education should be obligatory on the parents before they come into the hands of the employers at all, and that this should be extended to collieries. A certificate should be required of a certain amount of education—say the power, at least, to read a plain chapter in the Epistle of St. John; this would be enough to begin with. This certificate should be made a *sine qua non* to employment; it would do vastly more for education than the present system of two hours a-day; it would give a strong motive to parents to educate their children earlier, and it would give a stimulus to infant-schools. The master and the parents would both have an incentive to educate. The former could not otherwise get workmen, nor the latter wages; this would touch the parents, who are least disposed to educate through ignorance themselves."

Under all circumstances, to adapt the relay system to coal pits, we believe to be attendant with formidable difficulties, owing to the danger and trouble of drawing them up and down shafts of all depths from 30 feet to 500 yards.

We wish, without committing ourselves to that opinion, to direct attention to the proposal, that at least until the age of fourteen children shall work on alternate days, thus devoting three entire days with minds undisturbed by labour to education. Of course we assume that adequate schools be established. We have the authority of Mr. Thomas Ashworth, the agent of Lord Vernon, for the superiority of this over any other method.

Lord Ashley, we are sure, will allow no unnecessary delay to elapse in bringing his laudable work to a successful issue. In the present session he will grapple probably only with the most pressing evils, thus establishing, however, the principle of protection from the Legislature

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towards those who have received so little of it from their natural guardians. An officious interference with the development of industry and the arrangements of labour, is always to be deprecated on principles of liberty, as well as of economy. But we must ever recollect that mental and physical vigour are the elements of freedom, and that the greatest possible accumulation of wealth may not be always compatible with attributes still more essential to the happiness and greatness of a Christian people.

Greece Revisited, and Sketches in Lower Egypt.

By Edgar Garston. 2 vols. Saunders & Otley. Few modern travellers have visited Greece under more interesting circumstances than the author of these volumes. Nearly twenty years ago, he had gone as a volunteer to "the land of memories," when the Greeks, supported only by their own resolution and hardihood, and by the sympathies of a few philanthropists, rose against their barbarian masters, and, in defiance of the frowns of one Christian power, the sneers of another, and the apathy of all, declared that the banner of the Cross should not again strike to the Crescent. His good fortune brought him into intimate association with the gallant Palækars of the Morea, and the heroic Brûlotiers of Hydra; he witnessed their bravery, he shared their toils, he participated in their dangers. The fever, fatal to so many of his countrymen, at length compelled him to return home at the moment when the fate of Hellas trembled in the balance; years rolled away; the Turk and Arab were driven from the sacred soil; tardy diplomacy interfered to close the struggle, and took for its reward the supreme direction of the results; a Bavarian prince was chosen the first successor of Codrus, and Greece once more entered on a national existence. Mr. Garston revisited the country, when nearly half the space allotted to a generation had elapsed since the revolution had passed by; when the young had become old, when the aged had disappeared, and when the only memorials to mark sanguinary battle-fields were the superior harvests on a soil enriched by the mingled blood of its oppressors and its defenders. Under such circumstances, what he saw was irresistibly associated with what he remembered; in every picture the past was mingled with the present, and his impressions of both are so equally vivid, that he unconsciously violates the perspective of time. This defect, if indeed it can be called so, gives a distinctive and peculiar character to his descriptions, and freshness to a work on a subject which has become a little hackneyed.

The change in the condition of Greece was forcibly brought under Mr. Garston's notice, when he landed in the Piræus:—

"Although what I had seen at Patras had, in some measure, prepared me for the change, the contrast which the present state of the Piræus presents with its appearance in 1826, did not fail to produce a lively impression upon me. When I was there, at that time, a half-ruined monastery, and a few cottages and huts in an equally dilapidated state, were the only buildings which occupied the shores of the harbour, while in the harbour itself were anchored only a few caiques and mysticos. Now, besides a crowd of small craft and merchant vessels of other nations, are anchored in the harbour ships of war of almost every European power, and on its shores are ranges of handsome houses, and a town of no inconsiderable extent. Instead of the ruin and desolation, and almost solitude which I left at that time, I have found a scene of activity and prosperity, and a numerous and busy population, mixed up with millions of various nations. The lazaretto, the dogana, the caffès, the carriages drawn up at the landing-place, were all so inconsistent with my reminiscences of a spot, where, as an invalid, I had with difficulty found a roof which could protect me from the rain, that for a moment I felt as if under the

influence of a dream. I should, indeed, have accused of dreaming him who, fourteen years ago, would have told me that I should one day find myself at the Piræus, bargaining in my best Romanic for a conveyance to Athens in a good britschka, or that I should be driven from the one place to the other by a coachman in full Albanian costume. Such was the case with me yesterday evening; and I confess that it was no disagreeable contrast, to be conveyed at a round pace, and along an excellent road, over the same ground which it then required some caution to traverse on horseback."

A visit to the Italian Opera offered a more whimsical contrast between sight and memory:

"The medley of costumes among the audience, the mixture of fezis with hats, of capotes with palletots, of fustanellas with pantalons, &c., produces an effect almost grotesque, and to an old Philhellene has in it something disagreeable and heterodox. The latter remark may apply to the theatre itself, for though he may acknowledge the drama or the opera to be a not despicable assistant to the 'schoolmaster' in his progress, he finds some difficulty in reconciling himself to the frivolity of the scene on a spot, for him, associated with recollections only of a grave and exalted character. Yet will he scarcely repress a smile, when he sees grim old palækars, perhaps the comrades of his younger days, applauding to the very echo the cavatina of a *prima donna*!"

In his personal sketches and reminiscences of the surviving heroes of the revolution, Mr. Garston introduces some anecdotes of the war which are new to us. The following incident in the career of Prince Mavrocordato deserves to be recorded:—

"In 1825, when the brig of war of Sachtouris, of which Tsamados had taken the command, fought its way so gallantly out of the harbour of Navarino, through the midst of the Turkish fleet, Prince Mavrocordato was on board; and at his suggestion it was resolved to blow up the vessel in the event of the Turks making themselves masters of her. To him was entrusted the duty of setting fire to the powder magazine. The Turks attempted several times to board, but happily were repulsed with great slaughter. In the meanwhile, the Prince sat at the entrance to the magazine, pistol in hand, waiting the announcement of the fatal moment. His enemies endeavoured to represent his having volunteered to perform this awful duty as the effect of his anxiety to escape the dangers of the deck; but leaving out of the question the trying nature of the duty itself, and of the suspense in which he was compelled to remain, (far more fearful than the stir of the fight above,) the active part taken by the Prince in the military operations of the first years of the revolution, both in the Morea and in Northern Greece, was sufficient to vindicate him from so strange an accusation."

Our author has given very few particulars of the classic buildings of Athens, which indeed have been so often described that little can remain to be told. Still he has made some interesting remarks on the Thesum and Olympium, which explain some circumstances connected with the state of these monuments, unnoticed by the generality of observers:—

"On the walls and columns of the Thesum are many traces of cannon shot, which are commonly stated to be the effects of attempts made by the Turks wantonly to destroy it. I am more disposed to ascribe them to the chances of war. There are similar traces on the columns of the Olympium, which are vulgarly ascribed to the same cause as those on the Thesum; but these also, I am inclined to think, have been received during some of the many struggles which have taken place for the possession of the city. Both the platform of masonry on which the Temple of Jupiter has been built, and the mound on which that of Thesus stands, may very well have been chosen as positions, from which the approach to the city, in the respective directions, might be defended. I do not know whether it has been before remarked, that on both these monuments are visible the effects of a more mighty agent of destruction than any which man can wield,—those of an earthquake, or of a succession of earthquakes. The blocks of which the columns are composed, are

in some of them so far displaced, that the profile of the column is converted into a jagged, irregular line; many of the blocks have also been more or less twisted, so that the grooves of the flutings do not correspond with those of the blocks above or below. This is much more observable in the columns of the Thesum than in those of the Olympium, and can only have been produced in either by the shock of an earthquake."

Probably the same cause may explain the present condition of the river Ilissus, so celebrated by ancient poets, and so unclassically vituperated by Mr. Cobden:—

"If, on reaching the banks of the Ilissus, you had expressed your surprise at the miserable dearth of water in the bed of a river so celebrated by the city poets, and your indignation at their misrepresentations respecting it, I should volunteer my guidance as far as the Fountain of Callirhoe, in order to be assured that you did not pass unnoticed the traces which the rocks above retain of the passage of a powerful stream of water over them. The poets are not to be held responsible if the waters by which they loved to wander, and whose delicious coolness they sung, have either been allured from their native bed for the purposes of husbandry, or affrighted from it by some convulsion of nature."

In the modern history of Greece, no name holds a higher and more honourable place than the little rocky island of Hydra, which sent forth the mariners and brûlotiers by whom the navy of Turkey was reduced to a condition not less hopeless than that of the armaments of Xerxes. We extract a description of the Hydriote fire-ships, and the mode in which they were managed: to us the account is not less interesting than the history of the plans which achieved the victories of Artemisium and Salamis:—

"The body of the vessel was filled with combustibles of every description; under each of the hatches was placed a certain quantity of powder, communicating with which were trains or quick-burning matches, laid in pipes to, and along each side of the vessel, and having openings outward which were stopped with plugs. The captain of the 'doomed' vessel was aided by his crew in carrying her as near as might be to the enemy. When so near that the fire of the enemy rendered the deck no longer tenable for the crew, they got down into the launch, which was towed under cover of the least exposed side of the vessel. The captain, however, kept his post at the helm, until the moment for setting fire to the craft was arrived. He then lashed the helm, and joining his comrades in the launch, set fire to the train, and every nerve was strained by the crew to get away from the fire of the enemy and beyond reach of the explosion. The fire running along the pipes, the hatches were blown up, and the vessel before its final explosion became a mass of flame. Great as was the terror of the Turks on the approach of these vessels, the service was one of no common danger, and these devoted brûlotiers, holding on their lonely way under a storm of shot, are certainly entitled to our admiration. Many of the most daring, and among them Canaris, however, repeatedly escaped uninjured from these acts of devotion."

A sketch of the state of government and the administration of justice in Hydra, previous to the revolution, exhibits a primitive state of manners in this maritime community, little in accordance with European ideas of civilization:

"As an example of the simple and semi-barbarous usages of the time, and as a contrast with the manner in which justice is administered at the present day, it may be stated that culprits were tried and judged by the Bey, or Governor in council, in a summary manner, without consulting any other statutes than his own decrees, and that, as soon as sentence was passed, it was carried into effect in a manner equally summary. The councillors were four, each of whom held in his possession a fourth part of the seal of the council, which when complete represented the *Navayia*, or 'Virgin,'—the 'All Holy.' In the impressions of her image affixed to these decrees may yet be observed traces of this primitive mode of testifying that they were published with the concurrence of each of the members of the council. The

avengers of the law were the councillors themselves, and the instrument of chastisement was a very formidable sort of cat-o'-nine-tails, with which stripes were inflicted by them on the prostrate patient, while the Governor toll off the count on his combolajo, or rosary. It is said, but I know not with what degree of truth, that instances have occurred of the culprit expiring after the infliction of this 'knout.'

At Spezia, Mr. Garston learned the fate of the heroine Bobolina, who took a leading part in the early events of the revolutionary war. The account of her career is too characteristic to be omitted:—

"The Amazon Bobolina, so celebrated in the first years of the revolution, was a native of this island, and was owner of three vessels, which she armed for the service of the infant state. On many occasions during the war, especially at Argos and Tripolizza, she displayed a courage which would have done honour to a veteran pallekari. Her end was characteristic of the semi-barbarous manners of the time. Her son was enamoured of a fair island Helen, who had been promised in marriage to another. Notwithstanding the jealous restrictions under which the intercourse between the sexes was then carried on, the two lovers found means to communicate, and to arrange an elopement from the island, which was successfully effected. The father of the fair one, on discovering her flight, went with all speed, escorted by his three sons, to the castle-like mansion of the Bobolina, and claimed the surrender of his daughter. The lady had received some notice of hostile intentions on his part, and on his arrival he found the house barricaded. A parley took place between the Bobolina, at one of the upper windows, and the claimants for the fugitive, who had drawn up armed in front of the house, below. Protestations on the part of the Amazon that neither the fugitive nor her son was in the house, and that she was totally ignorant of the circumstances of the elopement, if elopement there were; professions of disbelief on the part of the besiegers, and claims to be admitted to make search in the house; these were met by a haughty defiance from the amazon, in answer to which shots were fired, and she fell dead, pierced by a pistol-ball in the centre of the forehead. The fugitives had, in fact, quitted the island, or further bloodshed would no doubt have ensued. Strange to say, at the time of my visit to Spezia (1825), peace had been restored, and the son of the heroine was living on terms of amity with his father-in-law and brothers-in-law, one of whom must have been the slayer, not to say the murderer, of his mother."

From Greece, Mr. Garston proceeded to Egypt, which has been so often described that we believe it to be better known to the reading public than any county in England. The most curious and gratifying information supplied by our author is the happy result of Ibrahim Pacha's agricultural attacks on the Desert, which merit higher praise than his valorous exploits in Syria and Sennaar:—

"The ride from Cairo to Heliopolis is through a country in the richest state of cultivation, abounding in date-trees, mulberry-trees, the mimosa nilotica, and young olive-trees, and in crops of grain, melons, pulse, and green fodder, among which are interspersed some promising plantations of vines. It is for the most part the property of Ibrahim Pacha, who, during his career of victory in distant lands, has caused infinite labour to be bestowed on its improvement, and a noble villa to be built about half-way between the capital and Matara. This fertile district is on the edge of the Desert, and about twenty years ago much of it was covered to some depth by the inundations of sand, which rapidly encroach upon the soil where they are not repelled by the efforts of constant industry. At this time it is as vividly green as any of the most favoured counties of England, and but for the peculiar character of the trees and crops, an Englishman might suppose himself to be taking a morning ride in his own land, provided the illusion were not destroyed by the appearance of the poor Fellahs, whose attenuated frames and wretched aspect, here, as elsewhere, are in striking contrast with the smiling and luxuriant face of the country they inhabit and fertilize, but do not enjoy."

If Mr. Garston's volumes do not add much to

our stock of information, they are light and lively, and not without interest.

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A SONG, AFTER A TOAST.

BY CHARLES MACLAY.

It he to whom this toast we drink
Hath brought the needy to his door,
Or raised the wretch from ruin's brink
With the abundance of his store;
If he hath sooth'd the mourner's woe,
Or help'd young merit into fame,
This night our cups shall overflow
In honour of his name.

If he be poor, and yet hath striven
To ease the load of human care,
If to the famish'd he hath given
One loaf that it was hard to spare;
If in his poverty erect,
He never did a deed of shame,
Fill high! we'll drink in deep respect
A bumper to his name.

But rich or poor—if still his plan
Has been to play an honest part,
If he ne'er fail'd his word to man,
Or broke a trusting woman's heart;
If Emulation fire his soul
To snatch the meed of virtuous fame,
Fill high! we'll drain a flowing bowl
In honour of his name.

THE LITERARY FUND.

A more numerous or more brilliant assemblage of rank and talent was never collected at the Anniversary of this excellent Society than on Wednesday last, when His Royal Highness Prince Albert was graciously pleased to take the chair. More than 350 noblemen and gentlemen were present, and the galleries were crowded with ladies, who testified, on more than one occasion, the interest they took in the proceedings. Amongst the company present were

His Grace the Duke of Cleveland, the Marquesses of Lansdowne (President), Northampton, and Exeter, the Archbishop of Dublin, the Bishops of Gloucester and Chichester, the Russian Ambassador, the Prussian, American, and Belgian Ministers, the French Consul-General, the Prussian Secretary of Legation, the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, Viscount Jocelyn, Lords Colville, Mahon, Ashley, Teignmouth, Montagu, Colborne, Vice Chancellor Bruce, the Master of Trinity Coll. Camb., Sir Robert Inglis, Sir E. Knatchbull, Sir C. Lemon, Sir B. Brodie, Sir R. Jodrell, Sir H. Halford, Sir James Clarke, Sir H. Ellis, the Hon. F. Scott, M.P., the Right Hon. V. Smith, M.P., G. W. Wood, M.P., D. Maclean, M.P., B. Botfield, M.P., J. Neild, M.P., H. H. Lindsay, M.P., Gally Knight, M.P., M. Milnes, M.P., Messrs. Washington Irving, Thomas Moore, Thomas Campbell, Hallam, James, Serjeant Talfourd, Col. G. Wood, Batty, Dr. Buckland, Rev. H. Milman, Messrs. R. I. Murchison, W. Selwyn, Q.C., J. G. Lockhart, B. W. Proctor, J. M. Kemble, C. König, K.H., P. Hardwick, R.A., C. R. Cockerell, R.A., &c. &c.

We hope to be excused, though we do not record the proceedings at length, as so many of them are necessarily mere matters of course. His Royal Highness, in proposing the health of 'The Queen,' observed that Her Majesty highly appreciated the Institution, and that he had Her Majesty's permission to say, that she took much interest in its prosperity, as was indeed subsequently made manifest by Her Majesty's donation of 100 guineas, in addition to which Prince Albert contributed 100l. Subsequently His Royal Highness again addressed the meeting and spoke as follows:—"The toast which I have now to propose is, 'Prosperity to this Institution,' an institution which stands unrivalled in any country, and which ought to command our warmest sympathies, in providing for the exigencies of those who, feeling only the promptings of genius, and forgetting every other consideration, pursue the grand career of the cultivation of the human mind, and the promotion of the arts and sciences. It is surely right gratefully to acknowledge the benefits we have derived from the disinterested exertions of those great and good men, and cheerfully to contribute to their wants and aid their necessities. I conclude with a warm wish that the object for the promotion of which we have assembled this day may be responded to in the most ample and generous manner. I propose 'Success to the Literary Fund.'" In the course of the evening, many of the distinguished visitors addressed the meeting. The following particulars, as more immediately connected with literature or literary men, we extract from the report in the *Morning Chronicle*.

After the usual toasts had been drunk, Mr. T. CAMPBELL rose. He said, Before I name the toast which I have to propose, I take leave to thank you for the honour you have conferred upon me in asking me to propose it. In this meeting, so full of the friends of literature and science, and on this occasion, when we rejoice that our chair is filled by the nearest and dearest representative of British Majesty—of the Queen of Queens—the Queen of hearts—our own Queen Victoria—this condensation in the circumstance of his Royal Highness Prince Albert taking the chair, is a condensation that cannot fail as a token of that strict amity which prevails between the sceptre and the press of our country—it is a token of an amity which cannot fail of proving a good omen to the cause of good government, and to the cause of literature—it is a condensation as wise as it is liberal and generous. Neither is it less wise for being generous, nor less generous for being wise, for when did generosity and wisdom exist in perfection except when they existed together? Truly said the prophet Isaiah, "The liberal man deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand." Our constitutional throne, with all the sacred blessings which attend it, stands supported merely by popular, by public opinion—I beg pardon for having used the word popular, I would rather say public opinion, because the enlightenment of public opinion comes not from this part or that, but from the conflict of parties, which strikes fire, and at the same time elicits light. Who shall deny it, that the church and the aristocracy have produced great and shining enlighteners of public opinion? At the same time I hope that it will not be thought plebeian to surmise, that the authors who have their origin in

the great whole of the numerous descriptions of public men, not, more, original criticism of Henry F. Lightner stands in literature "Mr. H. Mr. F. tone of part of the Lord of England of England, to join in the only ear had best gauge an member been ably eminent they have who nation As long bered, as so long so eloqu

Dut with whose h them, his work melodie

And had tothem and deli bumper

With He w

Mr. M in hopes of orator persons large en have ur responsi strongly objects and lust morable duals, or obvious unfit th and she merits it of this tion who ampiec my inte those c selves of which is, how climes, and riel stone, t self m could h his "be general as they whatev rank al whether

the great and general body of the people, are on the whole the most important, as they are the most numerous of the instructors of the people. It arises, no doubt, from our free press, that authors of every description—aye, take it to yourselves, lay and clerical—aristocratic and plebeian, have too often misled and darkened, instead of illuminating, the public mind; but is not that a just reason? Are we not, therefore, bound to honour those authors the more, who, instead of darkening the mind, had covered it with illumination—had inspired it with original thought, and had given to it a tone of free discussion of great principles? To this last class belongs Henry Hallam. Hallam was one of the great enlighteners of the public mind, and he confessedly stands in our day at the head of English historical literature. Mr. Campbell concluded by proposing "Mr. Hallam and the historians of England."

Mr. HALLAM returned thanks, but in so low a tone of voice as to be quite inaudible in the greater part of the room.

LORD MAHON then proposed "Moore and the poets of England." All present he was sure would readily join in this tribute of respect to men who had not only earned for themselves immortal renown, but had bestowed additional lustre on the English language and the English people. They would all remember with gratitude how often the poet's page had been able to solace the hour of sickness and sorrow. They were so fortunate as to have several of these eminent men among them. There was one whom they had just heard so eloquently address them, whose name was everlastingly entwined with the associations of the greatest exploits of British arms. As long as the battle of the Baltic should be remembered, as long as the name of Nelson did not perish, so long should they gratefully think of him who had so eloquently bade them remember

Those who sleep,
Full many a fathom deep,
By thy wild and stormy steep,
Eisnore!

But with reference to the name of that great man, whose health he was now to propose, he would ask them, who was there who had not reaped delight from his works? Who was there who had not felt his melodies float in his heart, in the poet's own words,

The greenest spot in memory's waste?

And had not the voices of those nearest and dearest to them sounded sweetest when they read his plaintive and delicious lines? Let them, therefore, drink a full bumper to him who had been characterized as the man

To whom the lyre and laurels had been given,
With all the trophies of triumphant song;
He won them well, and may he wear them long.

Mr. MOORE returned thanks. He said:—I was in hopes, I confess, that to save all needless expense of oratory, some one of the many eminent literary persons here assembled—one, like Ajax, with shield large enough to cover himself and friends—would have undertaken for the rest of his brethren this responsible task, and said for all what each must so strongly feel, both with regard to the nature and objects of this institution, and the peculiar sanction and lustre which have been shed round it on this memorable day. There are institutions, as well as individuals, of which it may be truly said, that the very obviousness of their claims to praise renders them unfit themes for eloquence, and that the simplest and shortest statement that can be made of their merits is that which will do them most justice; and of this nature appear to me the claims of the institution whose cause we are met here, under such high auspices, to support and commemorate. It was not my intention, when I rose, to inflict upon you any of those commonplaces which naturally suggest themselves on such a topic; but there is one reflection which cannot but arise on such an occasion, and that is, how few have been the instances, in all times and climes, of that *rara avis in terra*, a rich poet. "Poet and rich! 'tis solécism extreme!" So sung Shenshstone, the bard of the Leasowes; who was yet himself more opulent than most of his fellows; who could boast of his "hills white over with sheep;" and his "banks all furnished with bees;" while bards in general have quite as little to do with banks of bees, as they have, God help them, with any sort of banks whatever. Of course, under the head of "poets," I rank all great workers in the world of imagination, whether the medium through which their wonders

shine upon us be prose or verse; and we have had, in our own time, one illustrious instance, where wealth seemed to spring up under the steps of the enchanter as rapidly as the successive miracles of his own matchless genius. But, alas, not even here has there been exemption from the common lot. The works themselves are for all time; but that structure of wealth which they called up, and which seemed to rise higher and higher at each new spell of the magician, has even already, I fear, vanished; adding one more to the many fulfilments of that beautiful but melancholy presage, that, "Where such fairies once have danced, no grass will ever grow." I shall leave to my hearers to apply to the purposes and objects of this institution the few rambling remarks which I have here strung together, and again thank you most cordially for the kindness with which you have received me.

LORD COLBORNE then proposed "Mr. James and the novelists."

Mr. JAMES returned thanks. He trusted that a new era was dawning upon our literary history, and that men of genius and letters were now beginning to assume that station in society which properly belonged to them.

Mr. MURCHISON, the President of the Geological Society, proposed "The Marquis of Northampton and the scientific societies of England."

The Marquis of NORTHAMPTON returned thanks.

Mr. GALLY KNIGHT proposed "Mr. Serjeant Talfourd and the British dramatists."

Mr. Serjeant TALFOURD returned thanks. Although he feared that he had but little claim to the honour which had been done him, in coupling his name with the drama, yet he could not but state the satisfaction he felt at seeing the drama introduced to that sphere of sympathy which it was the object of the institution to raise around distressed literary talent. At the conclusion of Mr. Serjeant Talfourd's speech,—

SIR R. H. INGLIS proposed "Washington Irving and American literature." Such a toast would be drunk with delight in a country in which the fame of Mr. Washington Irving was so well established. He had been welcomed sincerely the last time he came among them, when he came as a private citizen, but they had now to welcome him as the representative to Spain of his great and powerful country. He begged to propose "Washington Irving, and success to the literature of the United States."

Mr. WASHINGTON IRVING rose to reply. He regretted his inability to express his feelings of the honour and the kindness which they had heaped upon him on a former occasion, and for this new expression of their good will. He could only return them his most sincere thanks.

Prince ALBERT then said:—I suppose you would not like to part without my proposing the ladies. I give you "The Ladies."

His Royal Highness left the chair shortly before twelve o'clock, after which the company immediately retired, every one apparently gratified and satisfied. The arrangements, indeed, were throughout excellent. The band of the Coldstream guards was in attendance. Miss Romer, Miss Grant, and Mr. Phillips, who volunteered their services, and Messrs. Broadhurst, T. Cooke, Chapman, and others, enlivened the evening by various appropriate songs and glees,—amongst others, Campbell's spirit-stirring "Mariners of England," and Moore's sweet melody.—

And doth not a meeting like this make amends
For all the long years I've been wandering away,
To see thus around me my youth's early friends,
As smiling and kind as in that happy day?

The subscription, we rejoice to hear, amounted to 1,109l. 15s., a most welcome addition to the funds of a noble institution,—an institution of which England may justly be proud, for it is without rival in the whole range of the civilized world.

We will, ere concluding this gratifying report, take leave to add, that all such as were unavoidably absent from the meeting—all such as agree with Prince Albert, that we ought gratefully to remember the benefits we have derived from the disinterested exertions of great and good men, who, feeling only the promptings of genius, and forgetting every selfish consideration, pursue the noble career of cultivating the human mind and the promotion of the arts and sciences,—that we ought gratefully to remember

these benefits and blessings, and cheerfully contribute to the wants and the necessities of such men when overtaken by those misfortunes and those ills to which flesh is heir, and genius and learning even more than usually subject to,—may forward their contributions to the Secretary, Mr. O. Blewitt, 78, Great Russell-street, which will be forthwith and gratefully acknowledged by the Committee.

ALTERATIONS AT HAMPTON COURT, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

DURING the next week one of the great glories of Hampton Court will be to be seen in perfection. Already the splendid chesnut trees of Bushy Park are a forest of budding flowers, and the sun of another day or two will develop them in all their unique extent and magnificence. Nowhere in England, or even in Europe, is there another grove of chesnuts a mile long. A single tree, with its pendent fans and silver pinnacles, is by itself one of the most glorious pictures of foliage. At Hampton Court you may wander along in one line under a grove of such pictures for half an hour. It was an act of true patriotism in the shoemaker of Hampton Wick, Timothy Bennet, to contest the right of way through this Park, which George the First sought to abolish. The shoemaker won the day, and every one of the thousands who annually delight themselves here, should combine to raise a monument to his memory. It does not often happen that the chesnuts are in full flower at the Whitsuntide holidays. They will be so this year. Those who have sympathy in seeing ten thousand people,—men, women, and children,—in innocent and full enjoyment, will go to Hampton Court on Whit-Monday. There, in the midst of all that is most esteemed, and carefully preserved as rare and exclusive in most places,—of trim gaudy flower beds, fountains, terraces, tapestries, pictures,—they will find some thousands of working men and their families. A painter would find it to his profit to see the groups of pic-nics formed under the trees. Bushy Park is all one *fête champêtre*; and though the dancers are not in satins and brocades, the *tableaux* are Watteau's pictures in motion. Unless this year should prove an exception to all before it, not a flower will be plucked, not a bough broken, not a scratch made on the walls. Yet our English people are destructive, and must be excluded from St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, unless they qualify themselves by a miserable fee of twopence or threepence! With the experience of the good conduct of the numberless visitors to Hampton Court, it surely was a little hard in the present occupant of Outlands Park and St. George's beautiful Hill, both in the immediate neighbourhood of Hampton Court, to exclude the public from the right of way, which had been enjoyed from time immemorial. When the South Western Railway reached Weybridge, in apprehension of the advent of numbers of visitors, and their assumed mischievousness, the public were shut out from crossing Outlands Park, or ascending the heights of St. George's Hill. To return to Hampton Court. Improvements in the arrangement of the pictures, the opening of some new apartments, and additional facilities of reference to the pictures by means of numbers, have already been slightly noticed in the *Athenæum*. It is now proposed, as opportune to the present time, not only to speak of these recent changes somewhat more in detail, but to give some curious particulars of the various works which took place at Hampton Court soon after Harry the Eighth had turned his minister Wolsey out of the possession of it. The expenses of these works were registered at the time with extraordinary care and minuteness; and the books in which they were entered are now kept among the records of the Treasury of the Exchequer. They possess interest directly in connexion with Hampton Court itself,—a palace, truly popular, in the widest sense,—and incidentally with reference to the state of the Arts in Henry the Eighth's time, and the decoration of Tudor architecture. We are not aware that any extensive notice has hitherto been taken of these expenses; and having had occasion to examine them minutely, we shall give our readers the benefit of our labours. But first we will tell them of the principal improvements made during the past recess.

On approaching the Palace at the west entrance, the visitor will remark that the north wing of the

façade is undergoing restoration. Characteristic pinnacles, chimney shafts, and the creeping and crawling monsters which ornament the coping stones of Tudor buildings, have been restored in excellent taste. In some places, too, characteristic mullions have been exchanged for modern window frames; but the rule has not been observed consistently, and it is positively the fact, that modern windows have been allowed to remain disfiguring the whole. We need not hunt far after probable reasons for an explanation of this monstrous anachronism. Mullions, though picturesque-looking on the outside of a building, darken the rooms slightly inside; and possibly do not accord with modern furniture, which is generally of no age or style whatever. Is it not too bad, if this be the reason, that the Palace should be sacrificed to the interest or whim of a Lady Betty and a Sir Noodle Doodle, pensioners, who are suffered, by the grace of the Queen, to dwell in it? We cannot exonerate from all blame Mr. Jesse, who seems anxious to exercise his duties of Surveyor to the Palace in the best way, for submitting to this tasteless tyranny. In no place do the authorities seem to be more desirous of facilitating public convenience than at Hampton Court; and in noticing this blotch, which, if not corrected, may offend against good taste for years to come, we are sure that Lord Lincoln and the Commissioners of Woods will see the interests of correct architecture and taste properly attended to. It is bad enough that such disfigurements exist more or less throughout the whole of Wolsey's part of the Palace, and that they should be suffered to remain; but actually to pass them by, and restore all the parts surrounding them, is inconceivably monstrous.

During the past winter the great west window of the Hall, misnamed "the Cardinal's," as we shall presently show, has been filled with stained glass of a suitable and appropriate kind, under the directions of Mr. Willement. It is astonishing how much the effect of this noble hall is improved by it; and we pray that in due course the other windows may be as well supplied. The disposition of this new stained glass avoids the radical fault often committed, of attempting to give a pictorial representation. The utmost that should be done with window decoration, is to produce the happiest combinations of colours in the most elegant shapes and patterns. All heraldic devices are perfectly suitable, and come within the principle. In this window Mr. Willement has kept within judicious limits, and excepting a figure of Henry VIII., not, however, treated as a picture, there is nothing which is not mere pattern-work very successfully arranged. Silken banners have been substituted for calico, but the effect is not improved. In some respects, that of colour for instance, it is even worse, because brighter and more gaudy. The eye is not suffered to repose on Van Orley's splendid tapestries below, the colours of which are necessarily faded by age, but is attracted by the bright and raw colours of the meretricious decorations above. Something has been done to subdue the bright blue border immediately above the tapestry, by inscribing on it legends in a faint tint of buff colour; but after all, modern brightness and ancient sombreness will not accord together, and the tapestries here are quite overpowered and injured. Mr. Jesse is borne out by all authorities in his use of vermilion, and ultramarine, and gold on the corbels and elsewhere; but unless he would have a discordant contrast, he should subdue the colours, and give them a look of three centuries, to agree with the colours of the tapestry. The banners we are inclined to think are out of their proper place, as well as the stags' heads below them. Both would be proper in a hall for waiting or mustering, but not in one for audience and revelry,—the uses to which this hall was applied. If we have any doubts about the banners, we have none whatever about the stags' heads; and certain we are that the removal of both would not deteriorate from the general effect of the interior, and would greatly enhance that of the tapestry, which is by far the most important object in the hall. Tables have been brought in, and their dark warm colouring very much relieves the cold and naked look of the floor. Perhaps we may be allowed to put in a word for the floor, once paved with "paynted tyle, y paved with paynttyl ich point after other," to express a hope that painted tiles may be re-laid. It may not be out of place to observe, that Mr. J. G. Nichols is publishing fac-

similes of encaustic tiles, the size of the originals, which would be useful not only here, but wherever this characteristic feature of "Gothic" buildings is about to be renovated. In the adjoining room—"the withdrawing room" as it is termed—the only change we observe, is the insertion of coloured glass half way up the almost unique semi-circular bay-window, and the effect is one of corresponding improvement. We presume the upper half is to be ornamented in like manner.

In an equally satisfactory direction have been the alterations with respect to the pictures; if we may except the increase of their numbers and the opening of the new rooms. The pictures, already too numerous, now exceed a thousand. The listless look of the multitudes before they have wandered half through the apartments, is proof that there are more than necessary. At least four hundred pictures might be removed without regret. Greenwich Hospital would suitably receive the numerous sea-fights and portraits of hulls of ships, as it did the portraits of admirals. Many an old pensioner would rejoice in them, whilst being, here, at the fig end of the collection, they are seen by few and enjoyed by no one. About a hundred and fifty pictures are hung so that they cannot be seen at all: some, indeed, genuine pictures of the old masters, it is said, but in a deplorable state of decay. Better surely not to be tantalized with the names of Leonardo da Vinci, and Perugino, and Julio Romano, than to see them attached to invisible pictures. Then there are lots of mere lumber,—execrable copies of good pictures,—it would be a God-send to be quit of. If the collection were thus weeded, space would be gained for improved hanging and arrangement. Something has been done lately towards classification, but much more is still wanting. The new rooms are called "The Prince of Wales' Presence Chamber and Drawing-Room," and they lead off from the "Public Dining-Room," which will readily be remembered as holding Andrea Mantegna's 'Triumphs of Cesar.' Excepting a 'Ganymede,' ascribed to Michael Angelo, and an 'Adam and Eve,' by Jan de Mabuse, they do not contain pictures of much interest. These rooms being out of the suite, interrupt the principle,—and a very wholesome one it is among great crowds,—of moving onwards. You enter and leave them by the same door, which makes an exception to the rule.

All the changes which have been made in the situations of the pictures are much for the better. By far the most important of these is the removal of the distemper paintings of Andrea Mantegna from the "Public Dining-Room" to the "Portrait Gallery." Here, these nine pictures follow one another, and form a consecutive procession eighty feet in length, as the artist originally intended them to do when he painted them for the Palace of St. Sebastian at Mantua. In their former situation, the order was broken, and they were hung much too high. By the present placing of these pictures, which is considerably lower, the horizon is nearly at its right point. It is surprising how much their effect in all respects, more particularly in colour, has been improved by the change of site. They are now viewed under a subdued light—sufficient however for the purpose,—and their defects of faded colour and decay are much less palpable than formerly. How much subsequent painters were indebted to this patriarch of revived art! These Triumphs are considered Mantegna's finest production, and rank, probably, next to the Cartoons, as the most valuable work of art in this country. The very curious historical paintings of the 'Battle of Spurs,' and the 'Meeting of Francis I. and Henry VIII. in the field of the Cloth of Gold,' ascribed to Holbein, though certainly not painted by him, which were formerly perched high, near the ceiling, have been brought to the level of the eye, and the multitude of figures which they contain are made visible. They are now numbered 517, 518, and hang in the "Queen's Audience Chamber."

Several pieces of Tapestry, which were hidden by pictures nailed against it, are now exhibited in the "Public Dining-Room." Two of them, representing 'Rebecca at the Well,' and 'Abraham and Melchizedek,' form part of the series which is hung in the Great Hall. Another piece is of English manufacture, after Raphael's 'Elymas the Sorcerer struck blind,' and was worked at the factory at Mortlake, established, we believe, by Charles I. Vanderdoort's

Catalogue mentions that there were, "in a slit deal case, some two cartoons of Raphael Urbin's, for hangings to be made by, and the other five are, by the King's appointment, delivered to Mr. Franciscus Cleane, at Mortlake, to make hangings by." A fourth piece, relating to the history of Midas, is inscribed—

Semper eget sitiens mediis ceu Tantalus undis,
Inter anhelatas semper avarus opes.

The fifth and last Tapestry represents Tobias and the Angel. The colours of all of these are much faded, but they are still very welcome revivals.

Some six or eight pictures of great value have come to light during these new arrangements. First and foremost is a recumbent Venus, by Titian (No. 55), being a duplicate of his Venus in the Florence Gallery. Next, a St. Catherine (No. 402), by Bernardino Luini, apparently a genuine picture ascribed to its right painter. The similarity of expression and treatment generally between this painting and 'Christ disputing with the Doctors' (No. 18), in the National Gallery, strengthens the assertion long since made, and often repeated, that the latter was not painted by Da Vinci, but by Luini. Another treasure exhumed is 'St. John Baptizing Christ in the River Jordan,' by Francia (No. 454). It is inscribed "Francia Aurifex," and that its authenticity is beyond impeachment must be evident to all who see it. It has suffered slightly in cleaning, and the golden halo around the head of Christ is nearly obliterated, whilst that around St. John is remaining. Though defective in arrangement and drawing, like the specimens of this master in the National Gallery, the expression and sentiment about the heads are full of the highest devotional feeling and character. The colouring is clear and solid. The scarcity of Francia's pictures in this country makes this "find" very acceptable indeed. We may add, that the numbering of the Pictures is now completed, and adds materially to the facilities of reference.

EXHIBITION IN OLD BOND STREET.

AMONG the few transitory Exhibitions of the season worthy especial notice, is one now open at No. 28, Old Bond Street. It comprises several curiosities, but the chief valuables are as follows. 1. "A Golden Altar-piece," given to the Cathedral of Basle A.D. 1019, by the Emperor of Germany, Henry II. We extract its description: "The altar-piece, which is four feet in height and nearly six feet wide, rests upon a ground [i. e. covers a panel] of cedar wood, three inches in thickness, this wood having, as is well known, the property of resisting the ravages of time longer than any other. It [the golden plate] contains five figures, each twenty-four inches high, and in bold relief. They represent the Saviour, the three Archangels,—Michael, Gabriel, and Rafael—and Saint Benedict, placed under arches which are supported by light columns, and on each of which, in characters of the lapidary, is the name of the personage. On the frieze and base are Latin inscriptions in red enamel. The whole has an arabesque ground."—Kneeling at and embracing the Saviour's feet are small figures of a king and queen (Henry and his wife Cunegonda, before their imperial coronation). Amidst the so-called arabesques various animals occur; and in the spandrels between the arches four medallions of the Cardinal virtues. All the halos, round the sacred heads, are bestudded with large "precious stones and some antique cameos," how precious and how antique we could not conjecture at such a distance. The best general idea we can give of this altar-piece is, that it resembles unpierced shrine-work in the latest Saxon style, or earliest Norman, with which numerous specimens of ancient architectural sculpture must have familiarized our church-visiting, if not church-going, readers. The forms are by no means uncouth, nor the angelic countenances very grim; but we could discover little "beauty and sublime dignity" about the Divine representation. Expression is not to be looked for; in antique middle-age works the diabolical personages alone monopolize that merit; primitive art confounded, as impotent art will always do, expressiveness with ugliness, and therefore usually preferred to leave their Saints' faces insipid rather than render them hideous. The drapery of this altar-piece distinguishes it most; being simple and massed on good traditional principles, it much excels the broken-up style which

succeeded, vances. L foliage, &c here and th a whole it pears thin it by pressu wrought w consider the New York United St from Engla Roman, or with certai adopted it. what less man—for from Byz work were Greekish ular Gre of any dire manship t artists," w the Latin have, encl through frize is, i medicus, so St. Bened E) and th dictiona he they put i selves ad physicians spice terr word seen itences). Latin wor Virtues. believe th presents C tenet, and the Latin all these a Byzanti predicam than our asked for be uttered attractive them, bu of individ putting a al Atlas, illuminat This is a strating Charles beauty in and yet birds, flo system o a very h Philip, a both the think he frontispie royal dar which ap rise from hears—"videntia" real auth have giv Two the of this a adjustm commod tain big over oft look;" t to the lu Charles mention "Let th and Isab there are this love-like 'Cra

succeeded, when, otherwise, art had made great advances. Let us add, that the borders of animals, foliage, &c., evince superior skill. Some portions here and there are restorations, or insertions, but as a whole it is well preserved. The metal plate appears thin; the figures seem to have been raised on it by pressure from the back, and little, if at all, wrought with any tool at the front. We cannot consider this work "Byzantine," any more than a New York frigate of English build, because the United States may have learnt naval architecture from England. All early middle-age art was debased Roman, or, as it may be otherwise called, Byzantine, with certain differences peculiar to each nation that adopted it. Early German works were perhaps somewhat less remote from the general model than Norman—for example, Basle or Ratisbon being less so from Byzantium than Caen or Rouen; but neither works were Byzantine, i. e. produced within the Greekish empire, or by a Greekish artist, or on peculiar Greekish principles. At least, in the absence of any direct proof that our altar-piece owes its workmanship to "one of those wandering Byzantine artists," we must take as strong evidence against this, the Latin inscriptions. Two out of the six, however, have, each, a term originally Greek, though common throughout the Latin or Western empire. On the frieze is, in Roman capitals, *Quis sicut Hel fortis, medicus, soter?* *Benedictus* an impious complaint to St. Benedict, whom it equals with Jehovah (*Hel* or *El*) and the Saviour (*Soter*), because certain Benedictines had relieved the Emperor of a stone, which they put into his hand while he slept, to prove themselves adroit miracle-workers no less than skilful physicians. Along the base run these words—*Proprie terrigenus clemens mediator usque*. This last word seems Latinized Greek—*obolag* (essences, existences). The four medallion inscriptions are also Latin words and letters—names of the four Moral Virtues. Besides, at the same time that we are to believe this production Byzantine, we are told it represents Christ as beautiful, contrary to the Greek tenet, and as bestowing his benediction accordant to the Latin ceremonial, not the Greek. Nevertheless, all these things might have been done by the hand of a Byzantine vagrant artist and apostate; in which predicament we leave it to more learned analysts than ourselves. *Eight thousand pounds sterling* is asked for it: there are some prices which appear to be uttered like cannon-balls, at once awful and attractive announcements: the above one is among them, but as we cannot estimate the particular views of individual or public collectors, let us refrain from putting any market-value upon it.—2. "A *Geographical Atlas*," of fourteen maps, drawn with the pen and illuminated, each surrounded by an arabesque border. This is a very curious work, and not useless, demonstrating the condition of geographical knowledge about Charles V.'s latter years. It possesses likewise much beauty in the enrichment of the maps themselves, and yet more in their painted rims, where fishes, birds, flowers, &c. are ranged on a somewhat loose system of Natural, or rather *Un-natural* History, but a very harmonious one of pictorial effect. Prince Philip, afterwards Philip II., is said to have been both the mappist and the illuminator: we can scarce think he ever did anything so creditable; though the frontispiece does seem as bad as it might become a royal dauber to execute. Here we observed a tablet, which apparently protests against Philip's claim to rise from the despot into the miniature-painter: it bears—"*Philippo Caroli Aug. F. Optimo Prince. Proventitia*"—a dedication, we submit, of the work by its real author, unto Prince Philip, who could not well have given himself an *optime* in prince-like behaviour. Two thousand pounds is the proprietor's valuation of this article, while he craves from connoisseurs an adjustment more in his favour if equitable; but such commodities are like actions at law, and seldom obtain higher "damages" than the plaintiff asks, however often far lower.—3. "*Queen Jane's Prayer-book*," an illuminated *livre d'heures*, once belonging to the luckless wife of Philip le Beau, and mother of Charles V.* It is about the size of the Clovio Missal mentioned in our papers on Strawberry Hill, or

somewhat larger, and contains thrice as many exquisite illustrations. These are of the Flemish school, and even pretend to be by *Mening* or *Hemmelinck* himself, but we cannot recognize his wonder-working hand. The painter displays much less manipulative tact and power than Clovio, with infinitely deeper expression, richer, mellow colour, and an imagination if not so correct, not so frigid, as his. A Service for the Dead is perhaps the masterpiece; and has an accompaniment still more remarkable—a *Dance of Death* (before Holbein's time) in separate small squares: two exhibit a skeleton leading off a male victim, the two others a female. St. Michael and the Dragon excels in serious naïveté almost comic: St. Martin dividing his Cloak, in delicate workmanship. The frontispiece, on two pages together, consists of Philip and Jane, full-length distinct portraits, with numerous accessories. This work does not present a text equal to Clovio's for beauty of form or execution; but its capital and initial letters are superior; some among them contain pictures fully composed and very finely handled; most appear filled with a brown ground, on which gold was sprinkled, the letters themselves being in a greyish blue chiaroscuro, and foliated, not flourished. One thousand pounds is the price expected. Several other articles, which we have no time to enumerate, complete a very choice

cabinet—except the oil-pictures, whose qualities are commonplace.

COMPARATIVE COUNTY POPULATION.

RECENTLY, being in need of some results upon the subject of population, which could be obtained no other way than by a comparison of the registrar general's returns with the census of 1841, I found that I could not obtain my end with the last document as it stood, from its being a tenth part of the time too much, less twenty-four days. The third report of the registrar general bore date June 30, 1840, and was published in the summer of 1841. Although I required but one or two of the counties for my immediate purpose, I calculated them all, and found, as I have no doubt you will do, some of the differences to be very extraordinary. The first column contains the full return of the census for 1841, and the second the numbers of the population to which the registrar general's returns of births, deaths, and marriages to June 30, 1840, can alone be correctly applied. The six following columns are results worked out from the preceding data, and it must be admitted, I think, that the differences in the counties exhibit some very singular facts, which seem to run counter to preconceived ideas upon the subject of population.

NAMES of COUNTIES and PLACES.	Full Census of 1841.	Reduced Census June 30, 1840.	Total Marriages.	Total Births.	Total Deaths.	Deaths to Population.	Marriages to Population.	Births to Population.	Marriages to Deaths.	Births to Deaths.
Hereford	114,438	114,138	577	2,552	1,796	63.55	197.8	44.7	3.12	4.42
Dorset	174,743	173,297	1,187	5,064	2,823	61.39	146.0	34.2	2.37	4.25
Cornwall	341,269	337,503	2,399	12,400	5,760	58.59	140.6	30.02	2.40	4.68
Devon	533,731	530,064	4,030	14,896	9,172	57.59	131.5	35.53	2.27	3.69
Sussex	299,770	297,210	2,011	18,853	5,361	55.43	147.7	33.57	2.66	4.40
Hants	334,940	331,145	2,457	9,474	6,337	55.41	146.9	37.06	2.57	3.85
Essex	344,995	342,422	2,083	9,710	6,421	53.32	164.3	35.26	3.08	4.66
Wilts	260,007	258,153	1,576	7,351	4,853	53.19	163.7	35.11	3.07	4.66
Suffolk	315,129	313,371	2,297	9,831	5,760	52.57	136.4	31.87	2.5	4.28
Bucks	155,989	155,106	979	4,719	2,978	52.08	158.4	32.86	3.0	4.82
Rutland	21,340	21,153	144	707	402	50.62	146.8	29.91	2.7	4.90
Lincoln	562,717	558,491	2,697	11,511	6,912	51.86	132.9	31.1	2.5	3.26
Norfolk	412,621	410,508	2,847	12,012	8,009	51.25	144.1	34.1	2.8	4.21
Stafford	510,206	500,897	3,880	15,099	9,800	51.11	128.9	31.47	2.5	4.09
Cumberland	177,912	177,143	1,044	5,130	3,483	50.85	169.6	34.5	3.3	4.91
Kent	548,161	541,715	3,614	15,528	10,672	50.76	149.3	34.7	2.9	4.29
Gloucester	431,307	427,166	3,419	11,474	8,442	50.59	124.9	37.2	2.4	3.35
Shropshire	239,014	237,508	1,617	6,471	4,725	50.26	146.8	36.7	2.8	4.0
Oxford	161,573	160,687	1,165	5,060	3,217	49.94	137.8	31.7	2.7	4.34
Hertford	157,237	155,934	963	5,284	3,153	49.42	161.8	29.5	3.2	5.48
Somerset	436,002	433,032	3,028	13,188	9,023	47.99	143.0	32.8	2.9	4.35
Northampton	199,061	197,357	1,660	6,738	4,155	47.49	118.8	29.2	2.5	4.05
Derby	272,202	268,930	1,815	7,707	5,658	47.47	148.1	34.8	3.1	4.24
Warwickshire	402,121	396,035	2,923	12,915	8,691	45.56	135.4	30.6	2.9	4.42
Huntingdon	58,699	58,178	446	2,076	1,284	45.31	130.4	28.02	2.8	4.65
Cambridge	164,509	162,587	1,291	5,721	3,620	44.57	125.9	28.4	2.8	4.43
Surrey	582,613	571,938	4,933	17,486	12,831	44.57	126.3	29.7	2.6	3.54
York	1,591,584	1,571,025	12,621	53,775	35,673	44.03	124.4	29.2	2.8	4.26
Bedford	107,937	106,771	944	4,178	2,428	43.97	113.1	25.5	2.5	4.42
Northumberland	250,268	247,709	2,185	8,399	5,676	43.64	113.3	29.7	2.6	3.84
Westmoreland	56,469	56,328	341	1,064	1,307	43.08	165.1	35.1	3.82	4.7
Durham	324,277	317,709	2,751	11,236	7,382	43.03	115.4	28.2	2.69	4.0
Cheshire	395,300	389,607	2,503	11,359	9,143	42.61	155.6	34.3	3.6	4.5
Middlesex	1,576,616	1,556,237	15,013	44,713	37,012	42.04	103.6	32.5	2.46	2.97
Berks	160,226	158,834	1,298	5,673	3,757	42.28	122.2	28.0	2.9	4.3
Leicester	215,855	214,093	1,727	7,332	5,363	40.10	123.9	29.2	3.1	4.2
Monmouth	134,349	130,966	1,427	5,096	3,422	38.27	91.7	25.7	2.39	3.5
Nottingham	249,773	247,485	1,974	8,940	6,945	35.62	125.2	27.6	3.5	4.9
Worcestershire	233,484	234,411	2,918	11,748	6,996	33.07	79.3	19.6	2.3	4.0
Lancashire	1,667,064	1,636,244	15,062	62,740	51,067	32.04	108.6	26.0	3.3	4.1
North Wales	396,254	393,887	2,561	8,944	7,503	52.49	153.8	44.05	2.9	3.39
South Wales	515,067	563,012	3,902	17,259	10,387	54.20	144.2	32.62	2.6	4.4
Mean for all Wales ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53.345	148.55	38.335	2.075	3.765
England	14,995,508	14,767,751	117,866	475,389	332,211	44.45	125.29	31.07	2.8	4.03
Leeds	168,667	.....	1,589	6,664	4,208	40.8	108.6	25.31	2.7	4.2
Birmingham	138,187	.....	1,045	4,925	3,667	37.67	132.2	28.05	3.5	4.8
Manchester & Salford ..	262,626	.....	3,692	10,192	8,667	30.3	71.1	25.76	2.3	2.7
Liverpool & West Derby	223,034	.....	3,679	9,925	9,990	22.82	60.6	22.47	2.7	2.6
London:										
Surrey	310,627	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kent	2,269	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Middlesex	1,434,887	.....	1,747,773	18,648	54,515	45,132	38.8	99.6	32.06	2.4
									2.9	1.2

N.B.—The census for the towns not being reduced, the statement is so much the more favourable to them, being on the larger population by $\frac{1}{150}$ than that for the counties.

* 4.3 in former return, perhaps an error.

*Let the reader consult Prescott's "History of Ferdinand and Isabella" for proofs that *Jeanne la Folle* was no fool. Yet there are sillier things in the *History of Fiction* than that this love-lorn, forsaken Princess may have inspired a ballad like "Crazy Jane."

It will be seen above, that the registrar general's statement in his second annual report, making the mean mortality for England and Wales 46.6, is not correct, England being 1 in 44.45, and Wales 53.34, or for both 48.89. I mention this with no blame to the officer, as his data were at that time defective. The third report is as correct as perhaps such reports may ever be rendered for the present purpose.

The less value of life as the north is approached is rendered visible by this table: except Cumberland, having a mild climate, and being mountainous as well as maritime, which gives 1 death in 50.85 annually, we find no northern county in the list until we come to Yorkshire, giving 1 death in 44.03 annually. We may add here, too, that in the northern counties invariably the greatest number of births happens in the June quarter; in the southern, in the quarter ending in March; a singular circumstance in itself.

In comparing Durham and Cornwall, both mining counties, we find 1 death in 43.03 annually in Durham, and in Cornwall 1 in 58.59. What a contrast is presented between Hereford and Worcester, bordering counties, both agricultural: Worcester gives 1 death in 33.07, Hereford 1 in 63.55; yet Worcester has 1 marriage to 79.3 of population, Hereford but 1 to 197.8. In the contrast between the towns and counties this result is very remarkable. Liverpool, with three times the proportional number of marriages of Herefordshire, has but 2.6 children to a marriage, and the deaths exceed the births in number. Hereford augments its population, each marriage averaging 4.42 children. It would not, perhaps, be too much to infer from this, that the increase of population depends upon the increase of longevity in the mass of the people, and has much less relation than is supposed to the number of marriages. But these, and numerous other inferences which may be drawn from the foregoing table, will no doubt become subjects of consideration with a numerous class of your readers.

I have only to add, that in my opinion a decennial series of such tables as the present would form a valuable and lasting body of reference for fixing many facts regarding our population in a more correct mode than one solitary table can supply, because temporary causes may affect the returns for one year. I would fain draw the attention of the registrar general to this matter.

I am, Sir, &c.

CYRUS REDDING.

London, April 26, 1842.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

LETTERS from Fernando Po announce the death of Dr. Vogel, the naturalist attached to the Niger Expedition.—It is also mentioned in the Friend of Africa, that letters from Ascension of the 7th Feb. state, that the *Albert* had rejoined the *Wilberforce* at that island; and that "in consequence of reports which had reached Ascension, relative to the model-farm, Capt. William Allen, as the head of the Expedition, in the absence of Capt. Trotter, had determined to take the *Wilberforce* to Fernando Po, with a view to prepare either her or the *Soudan*, or, if deemed expedient, both vessels to reascend the Niger. It was Capt. Allen's intention to sail from Ascension on the 1st of March, in order to be ready for the river about the beginning of April. Thus, whilst we in England have been debating the question of the propriety or impropriety of renewing the Expedition, the brave men who are most nearly concerned in its solution have settled it already in the affirmative. Whatever be the final results of their perseverance, we imagine there can be but one opinion about the spirit which actuates them."

At the special meeting of the Academy of Sciences, held on Monday last, a report was first whispered about, that the celebrated circumnavigator Admiral Dumont d'Urville had, after all his perilous enterprises in foreign seas, perished miserably at home, one of the victims to the railway accident, whose horrors throw all former casualties of the kind into shade. The Admiral, with his wife, his son (aged 14), and a naval officer, to whom he was much attached, were known to have gone to Versailles on Sunday, intending to return to dinner. No tidings of any one of the party had since been received, although the Minister of the Marine had sent an express to Versailles to make inquiries. Subsequent

inquiries leave no doubt as to the fate of the Admiral, his wife, and son. There was not room, it appears, in the carriage by which the family travelled, and the friend, therefore, who had accompanied them, got into another, and has escaped with a broken arm; while the Admiral's servant, who was on the outside of his master's carriage, was thrown off by the shock and broke his leg. It is, indeed, believed, that the calcined body of the Admiral has been recognized, although there remained no vestige of his clothes, and but few indications to guide his friends in ascertaining his identity. One of his arms had been so contracted by the effects of the fire, that his hand was within a few inches of the shoulder. M. Dumont d'Urville, as our readers know, returned only in Nov. 1840, from his second voyage round the world, during which he discovered and explored some previously unknown regions towards the South Pole (see *Athen.* No. 684), and was engaged in arranging for the press the history of his recent Expedition, when thus fearfully cut off; and many of them will probably remember, that he was the officer, then a captain in the navy, on whom devolved the charge of conveying Charles X. from Cherbourg to this country, when driven from his throne by the revolution of 1830.

The Paris papers also mention the death, in that capital, of M. Bertin des Vaux, peer of France, widely known in the literary and political world of France as joint-founder and co-proprietor of the *Journal des Débats*, with his brother, whose death we announced only six months ago.

We are perplexed to know whether it is better to fall into the current humour, and lend ourselves occasionally to that sort of picture puffing, which has of late years been carried to such an offensive extent by some of the print publishers, or resolutely refuse to notice works when the sole object of the exhibitor is an advertisement. Years since we found it advisable to shut both eyes and ears, in early spring time, and on no temptation to peep into an artist's studio, for we heard and saw so much, under circumstances when a free judgment would have been contrary to good faith and right feeling, that we thought it best neither to see nor hear. If then we would not serve artists by such preliminary flourishes, why are we to subserve the interests of printsellers?—and yet when the public are summoned to see pictures prior, as it is said, to what? their being sent to the Exhibition! it is thought a want of vigilance on our part that we do not join in the press in sounding gong or trumpet. However, discretion suggests that we may, with propriety, advert to Mr. Hayter's picture of 'The Royal Marriage,' exhibiting, or lately exhibited, at Messrs. Graves & Co's, of Pall Mall. Pictures of this class are, in their leading intention, a series of portraits—to which intention questions of art are subordinate and auxiliary; and their value to the parties whom they most interest will, therefore, depend, in great measure, on the fidelity of the likenesses. On this head, we have never seen a picture of the kind which did not occasion many differences of opinion—an inevitable consequence of such picture being subjected to the judgment of a public composed of individuals having different degrees of familiarity with the originals. The 'Royal Marriage' has not escaped the fate of its family—all possible sentences having been passed on most of the leading figures which it contains. For ourselves, we should say of those portraits with whose originals we are best acquainted, that the resemblances are good—and thence infer favourably of the rest. As one of a series commemorating the principal events in the life of Her Majesty, the picture has, however, an interest more general, and in some degree historical—and though the spirit of some forty or fifty years ago—which accepted all things that recorded the movements of Royalty with a most unquestioning zeal, and placed the domestic events of the palace among the fire-side topics of nearly all the householders throughout the land,—be greatly sobered, yet there is always a loyal public in England sufficiently large to support publications of such a character, and so ushered and patronized. Such pictures are, therefore, printsellers' prizes, from their first conception; and it is thus another of the conditions of their composition that their lights and groupings are arranged for publication as prints. The pencil of the artist works not simply with a view to its own illustration, but with direct-reference to

the burin of the engraver. All these are conditions narrowing the resources of art; and the glare of costume and glitter of the accessories with which the painter must deal, are other obvious difficulties which will prevent the great things of the English school from ever being achieved in this walk. Contending with such obstacles, it cannot be denied that Mr. Hayter has produced a striking and brilliant picture. The figures which the canvas represents are about sixty in number; and these are well grouped amongst themselves, and in reference to the central interest of the picture. The story is well told, the canvas skilfully lighted; and all that the artist could do, to subdue the predominating red of the scene, by such neutral tints as he had at his disposal—a feather here, a piece of white drapery there, and above all by the cluster of beautiful faces which are grouped behind the Queen, and inevitably catch the eye of the spectator, but only to lead it back to the dramatic centre, on which their own interest is intently fixed—he has ably done.

The annual meeting of the five academies took place last week, at the Institute, under the presidency of Count Molé, Director of the Académie Française. The business of the day was commenced by a speech from the President, the object of which was to show that the Academy had not degenerated since its first creation by Louis XIV. M. Lebrun then stated that the prize of comparative philosophy for 1842, founded by the Count de Volney (a medal of the value of 1,200 fr.) had been awarded to M. Théodore Benfey, for his work in German, entitled, 'Dictionary of the Roots of the Greek Language.' A notice by M. Debet, on the repairs and embellishments of the Church of St. Denis, with which he was charged, and which were completed in 1840, was then read, and this was followed by the reading of a paper, entitled *Recherches sur la Personne d'Ogier le Danois*, the Jack of Spades of playing cards, by M. Paulin Paris. The reception of M. Ballanche, the new Member of the Académie Française, also took place last week. There was a full attendance of Members, amongst whom were Messrs. de Chateaubriand, Royer Collard, Dupin, Molé, and de Broglie. The eulogium of the new Member upon his predecessor, M. Alexandre Duval, was read by M. Mignet. A brilliant eulogium having been made upon M. de Chateaubriand by M. Ballanche, in the course of his eulogium on M. Duval, the public, who were present on this occasion, applauded it with so much fervour, that M. Chateaubriand, overpowered with emotion, burst into tears.—The Academy of Moral and Political Science have elected M. de Rémusat in place of the late M. Jouffroy, and M. Wheaton, Minister of the United States at Berlin, a Corresponding Member:—and the Académie Française, M. Patin, as successor to M. Roger. A subscription has been set on foot, and a committee formed, under the auspices of the Duc de Coigny, for the erection of a monument to the memory of Cherubini: while the Musical Section of the Institute has announced that it finds no one, at present, worthy to fill the chair of the deceased composer—that being the true meaning represented by its formal declaration that it will not proceed to any election for supplying his place.

From Paris we have also a bit of literary gossip, which may serve as a pendant to our recent announcement of Cardinal Maïo's editorial labours, on the famous Vatican Manuscript of the New Testament. Some of our readers may be aware of the existence in the *Bibliothèque Royale* of a manuscript rivaling that of the Vatican for the antiquity and critical value of its text—the famous *palmimpsest*, known under the name of Ephraïm the Syrian, and presenting, beneath the running writing of an unimportant Greek work of the twelfth century, a great part of the original text of the New Testament, in Uncial letters, as old at least as the sixth century. This text, which, to the great regret of the learned, has been always considered undecipherable, has been recently submitted to a chemical agent, which has restored the ancient characters, though not in their completeness, yet in a degree sufficient to enable a judgment to be formed of its value; and M. Tischendorf, a young *avant*, who has been for some years visiting, at the expense of the Saxon government, the most celebrated literary collections of Europe, has succeeded in reading a large portion of the manuscript,—a complete edition of which he is about to publish, with the aid of the

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We promised a report of *Madame Caradori Allan's* Concert, but for this a line will suffice,—as the new Italians disappointed the lady, and, though her programme was very agreeable, the music was too familiar to need enumeration. The greatest treat was the duct from Rossini's 'Aureliano in Palmyra,' sung with high finish by Madame Caradori and Madame Persinni; nor must M. Godefroid's harp and M. Cavallini's clarinet be forgotten.—In the evening, the *Professional Choral Society* repeated Prof. Taylor's version of Haydn's 'Seasons.' Of the cleverness of their performance we spoke a twelvemonth since; and do not wholly understand how it was that a year's weekly practice has failed to produce a new work:—let us recommend one to the notice of all aspiring bodies of chorists—the 'Passions-Musik' of J. S. Bach.

Yesterday week, too, Déjazet came out at the French Play: in the midst of rapturous applause, the part being the darling 'Vert-vert' of the Palais Royal. Since then, she has appeared in 'La Fille du Dominique,' and 'Les Premières Armes;' and in all enchanted 'the subscribers and the general public' (our readers will please to excuse this play-bill style). Frowardness, impudence and thoughtlessness, never found so fascinating a representative as in this ugly woman. Yet the above goodly gifts are with her so harmonized by a *dégagée* grace, that, whereas all other actresses touching her characters at once become intolerably vulgar, Déjazet passes free, excused for all she does, says, and looks,—and less offensive in the fulness of her audacity than many a Lydia languish in her tender sighs and modest smiles. It is a curious fact, the forms and quantities of national morality considered, that the French would no more endure the coarseness of our low comic acting, than we should abide the blasphemy (the word will out) of their melo-dramatic writers.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS is NOW OPEN at the Gallery, FIFTY-THREE, Pall Mall, next the British Institution, from 9 o'clock till dusk. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. JAMES FAHEY, Sec.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

THE TWO PICTURES, now exhibiting, represent THE VILLAGE OF ALAGNA, in Piedmont, destroyed by an Avalanche, painted by M. BARRY; and THE SHIPWRECK OF THE SAVITRY, at Bethune, painted by M. RENOUX, from a sketch made on the spot by D. ROBERTS, R.A. in 1830. Both Pictures exhibit various effects of light and shade. Open from Ten till Five.

ITALIAN AND FLEMISH GALLERY, 49, PALL MALL.—THE APOTHEOSIS OF THE MAGDALEN, by LUDOVICO CARACCI.—The great original picture by RUBENS, THE EVILS OF WAR—THE DELUGE, by Sir JOHN MARYAT.—A Fine Head in Fresco, by CORREGGIO, and other works of high class, are now on View and on Sale. Open from 11 till 5. Admission 1s. N.B. Near the British Institution.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION. MORNING, AND EVENING, except SATURDAY Evenings.—A SPANGLED TUBE, 30 feet in length, producing magnificent effects, is just added to the COLLOSSAL ELECTRICAL MACHINE, which is worked by the STEAM ENGINE, and the ELECTRIC LIGHT, the appearance of the AURORA BOREALIS, and various other experiments on a grand scale. Constant additions to the enlarged and improved DISSOLVING VIEWS, part of which form a series intended to illustrate the SCENERY of the HOLY LAND, copied from the beautiful work of David Roberts, R.A. by permission of Mr. Moon, the publisher, of Threadneedle Street. LECTURES which demonstrate the latest advances made in practical science. THE ORRERY, DIVING BELL, and DIVER, with Experiments in the Water. PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS taken daily by Mr. Beard, Conductor of the Band, Mr. Wallis. Admission, One Shilling.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The nineteenth anniversary was held on the 7th of May. Professor Wilson in the chair.—The Report of the Council began by advertising to the loss sustained in the death of the Earl of Munster, its late President. The usual statement of deaths, retirements, and elections followed. Mention was then made of some valuable oriental works, printed in MS., bequeathed to the Society by the late N. B. Edmondstone, Esq. and General T. Gordon; and of some Chinese works, presented by Sir George Staunton. Some valuable geological papers on the Mineral Resources of India, were noticed as forming part of the Journal of the Society, copies of which were upon the table. The proceedings of the Oriental Translation Committee were then adverted to; and, in addition to the advancement of several works, of which portions have appeared, notices were given of the translations of the *Sama Veda*; of the History of Hyder Ali; and of Ibn Khallikan's Biographical Dictionary, shortly to

be published. The establishment of a fund for the printing of Oriental texts had been mentioned at the last anniversary; and some detail was now given of its proceedings. One volume only had been published, which was the sects of Sharistani, edited by the Rev. W. Cureton. The text of the *Sama Veda*, and that of the *Vihadaraanyaka Upanishad* are begun; and the Syriac text of the long-lost work of Eusebius, *περί θεοπαρισίας*, is about to be commenced; and various other works are in active preparation.

After the reading of the Report, and the exhibition of financial statements, the chairman proposed to enter on the records a resolution expressing the feelings of its members at the loss of their late President, which was carried by acclamation. Sir Alexander Johnston then moved that the Right Hon. Lord Fitzgerald and Vesci, President of the Board of Control, should be elected President, in the room of the Earl of Munster. The motion was seconded by Sir George Staunton, and carried unanimously. Votes of thanks were then passed to the officers, and the meeting proceeded to ballot for the Council and officers for the ensuing year. The following gentlemen were elected into the Council, in the room of those who went out by rotation: The Hon. W. H. Leslie Melville, Sir T. E. Colebrooke, Bart., M.P., the very Rev. the Dean of Salisbury, Samuel Ball, Esq., Gen. Caulfield, Capt. Eastwick, J. Guillemand, Esq., Col. Leake. The officers of the preceding year were re-elected.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

April 18.—Lord Sandon, V.P., in the chair.

A paper was read, 'On Accidents upon Railways,' by C. R. Weld, Esq.—The number of persons conveyed by 50 railways, in the first half year of 1841, amounted to 9,122,613, of whom 1,530,040 occupied first class carriages, 4,144,169 second class carriages, 2,357,745 third class carriages, and 1,090,659 carriages not classed. The number of trains employed was 99,422, which gives 91.3 persons to each train. The average speed of each class train was as follows:

Including stoppages:	1st Class 17½ miles per hour.
	2nd .. 17½ "
	3rd .. 17 "
Exclusive of stoppages:	1st .. 22½ "
	2nd .. 21½ "
	3rd .. 21½ "

The lines upon which the trains travel at the greatest speed, are as follows:—

Average speed, exclusive of stoppages.	
Northern and Eastern ..	36 miles per hour.
Great Western ..	33 "
London and Brighton ..	30 "
Newcastle and North Shields ..	30 "
Midland Counties ..	29 "
North Midland ..	29 "
London and Birmingham ..	27 "

On the Leipzig and Dresden Railway, the maximum speed is fixed at 10 minutes per geographical mile, which is equal to 20½ miles per hour. The receipts arising from the foregoing number of passengers amounted to 1,145,386l. 7s. 4d., of which 281,087l. 12s. 6d. was received from first class passengers, 231,046l. 3s. 7d. from second class passengers, 58,515l. 3s. 1d. from third class passengers, and 604,737l. 8s. 2d. from mixed class passengers. The Act of Parliament does not enable the officers of the Railway department of the Board of Trade to obtain returns of accidents attended with danger unless personal injury is actually sustained. The following table shows the number of accidents attended with personal injury arising from causes beyond the control of passengers, from August 1840 to Dec. 31, 1841:—

Nature of Accident.	Number of Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.
Collision ..	27	12	136
Engine or train breaking ..	9	4	14
Run off the line ..	12	26	58
Run over ..	4	3	1
Fell off ..	5	1	4
Total ..	57	46	203

of which 28 accidents occurred in the five latter months of 1840, and 29 in 1841. The following is a return of the accidents, attended with personal injury to individuals, owing to their own negligence or misconduct:—

Nature of Accident.	Number of Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.
Run over ..	31	18	14
Fell off ..	5	2	3
Jumped off ..	15	2	13
Crushed by engine ..	1	1	—
Total ..	52	23	30

of which 16 occurred in the latter five months of 1840, and 36 in 1841. The accidents attended with personal injury to servants of the Company, under circumstances not involving danger to the public, were as follows:—

Nature of Accident.	Number of Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.
Collision ..	4	—	4
Fell off ..	14	5	10
Jumped off ..	7	3	3
Run over ..	46	30	19
Crushed ..	15	2	12
Boiler burst ..	2	3	10
Waggon overturned ..	2	—	2
Train run off the line ..	1	1	—
Struck by a bridge ..	4	2	—
Total ..	95	46	62

of which 35 occurred in the last five months of 1840, and 60 in 1841. By the foregoing returns, it appears that the number of railway accidents has considerably diminished, as, out of 204 accidents that occurred between August 1840 and December 1841, 125 took place in the past year, and 79 in the preceding five months, a decrease of exactly one-third. Taking the number of passengers carried by the various railways in 1841 at double the number given for the first six months, which is equal to 18,245,226, the accidents amount to 1 in 145,963; and it may be remarked, that a large proportion of these occurred from slips in the embankments, occasioned by continual wet weather. A diminution has taken place in the accidents resulting from collisions arising chiefly from mismanagement or defective arrangements. A great proportion of the accidents that occurred at the end of 1840, and the commencement of 1841, were of this nature, no fewer than 17 accidents having occurred in eight months, from August 1840 to April 1841, from the single cause of collisions by trains or engines overtaking others travelling on the same line. During the nine months from April 1841 to January 1842, only 5 collisions of this nature occurred, and those, with one exception, unattended with fatal consequences. This diminution in the number of collisions appears too great to be the result of accident, and may fairly be attributed, in a considerable degree, to the adoption of many of the precautions suggested by the Inspector General, viz. the erection of proper fixed signals at stations, the use of tail lamps and hand signals, and the enforcement of more attention to signals on the part of servants. The returns of the past year also show a marked diminution in the number of serious accidents occasioned by the misconduct of engine-drivers. In the last five months of 1840, 7 accidents occurred, by which 8 persons were killed, and 31 injured; and in 1841 only 3 accidents occurred, by which 2 persons were killed and 3 injured. By a strange mistake in the drawing up of certain clauses in the Acts of various railway companies, obliging them, under a penalty, to keep the gates at level crossings closed across the railway, instead of across the road, accidents of a serious nature have occurred. In two instances, upon the Hull and Selby, and Newcastle and Carlisle railways, the lives of the gatekeepers fell a sacrifice to the former plan. From the returns made by the different Railway Companies, it appears that there are 605 6-wheel engines, and 224 4-wheel engines, traversing an extent of 1,330½ miles. A general opinion is entertained that 4-wheel engines are rather more unsteady, and subject to oscillatory movements, and especially to vertical movements, which, in extreme cases, may lead to jumping off the rails, while, on the other hand, 6-wheel engines are thought to be less adapted for going round short curves; and this opinion is in some measure borne out by the fact that 3 accidents occurred to the 4-wheel engines, out of the total number of 224 engines of this description, arising from their having run off the rails, while no accident occurred to the 6-wheel engines. The circumstance, however, that the two railways, which, in proportion to their amount of passenger-traffic, have been perhaps most free from serious accidents, viz. the London and Birmingham, and the Grand Junction, use, in the one case, 4-wheel, and, in the other, 6-wheel engines exclusively, appears quite sufficient to show that any attempt at legislative interference to enforce the adoption of any peculiar construction of engine, would be altogether misplaced in the present state of experience on the subject.

A long discussion ensued, and it was proposed that a comparison between the accidents arising from rail-

way travelling, and those proceeding from stage-coach conveyance, should be made, if possible; with a view to which Viscount Sandon suggested that a return might be called for in the House of Commons of all the inquests held by coroners, from which might be selected those resulting from stage-coach accidents, and thus, as far as the deaths went, the comparison would be complete.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.—April 8.—The President, Lord Wrottesley, in the chair.—J. Jenkins, Esq., and J. S. Eiffe, Esq., were elected Fellows.—The following communications were read:

1. 'On the Aggregate Mass of the Binary Stars 61 Cygni,' by S. M. Drach, Esq.—The truth of universal gravitation having been confirmed by the elliptic form of the orbits of binary stars, it follows that knowing the absolute distances of the component members and their period of revolution round each other, we are able to deduce their aggregate mass compared with that of our sun and a planet, by exactly the same process which acquaints us with the various masses of the planets which are attended with satellites. The ratio of the sums of the masses of the component bodies in two such systems being then that of the cubes of the mean distances of the components, multiplied into that of the inverse squares of their periods of revolution round each other, we may assume that one system is composed of the earth and sun, and we have then two cases to consider; 1st, when this binary star is of very small mass compared with the sun, in which case the system would revolve about the sun, the centre of gravity being near the sun's centre; and, 2ndly, when the star's mass is much superior to that of the sun, in which case the orbital motion of the star would be only apparent, and owing to the real revolution of the solar system round it. Applying these remarks to the case of the star 61 Cygni, and assuming Bessel's value of the parallax, and the usually assumed elements of the orbit of this binary system, it appears evident that this system is unconnected with the solar system. It does not, however, appear impossible that both systems revolve round a third at an immensely greater distance than that of the sun from the earth. The author, in conclusion, adverts to the great importance, in the present advanced state of practical Astronomy, of noting the positions of the stars having the greatest proper motions with all possible accuracy, and of rigorously comparing the deduced proper motions at equal intervals of time, for the purpose of discovering whether the motions are performed in one plane, and whether they are uniform; and also to the importance of having a catalogue of stars accurately arranged in order of brilliancy by means of photometrical observations, as an essentially requisite element in the determination of their relative distances from the earth.—2. Second Note 'On the Mass of Venus,' by R. W. Rothmann, Esq.—3. 'On a Method of Determining the Latitude at Sea,' by M. C. L. von Littrow, Adjunct-Astronomer at the Imperial Observatory at Vienna.—4. 'On the Rectification of Equatorials by Observations of Stars on the Meridian and at an Hour-Angle of Six Hours,' by M. C. L. von Littrow.—5. 'The Parallax of *α Centauri* deduced from Mr. Maclear's Observations at the Cape of Good Hope, in the year, 1839 and 1840,' by Professor Henderson.—6. 'Observations of the beginning and end of the Solar Eclipse of July 1841,' by Dr. Cruikshank.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—May 10.—The President in the chair. A paper was read, descriptive of 'Messrs. Marshall's new Flax Mill at Leeds,' by Mr. Combe. This mill consists of one room 132 yards long by 72 yards wide, covering nearly two acres of ground. The average height is 21 feet. The roof is formed of brick groined arches of 56 feet span, supported by cast iron pillars; an impermeable coating of coal tar and lime is laid over the arches, upon that is a layer of soil eight inches thick sown with grass—this immense room is lighted and ventilated by a series of skylights 13½ feet diameter, one at the centre of each groin. Throughout, beneath the building extends a cellar, containing the shafts for communicating the motion from a pair of 100 horse power steam-engines to the various machines in the mill. The flues and steam cases for warming and ventilating, and the revolving fan for urging the air into the room, are also placed there, with the gas and

water pipes, and the rest of the space is used as a warehouse. All the details of the construction of this extensive building were given, with the cost of it, which appeared to be no more than that of an ordinary fire-proof mill; the advantages of this description of building were stated to be the convenience of supervision, the easy access to the machines, the power of sustaining an uniformity of temperature and moisture, the absence of currents of air and several points of minor importance. The adoption of similar constructions for machine manufactories, and even for agricultural buildings, was strongly urged, on the ground of the advantages arising from concentrating all the processes under the supervision of one person, and the economy in moving heavy masses. Arched roofs were stated not to be more expensive than wood or slate coverings, and to be quite as sound when well executed, and of their durability there could not exist a doubt.

'The description of the Explosion of a Steam Boiler at the Penyarden Works, South Wales,' by Mr. Stephens, was an interesting account of a sad accident. The boiler was 41 feet long, 7 feet diameter, with a centre tube flue of 4 feet 2 inches diameter; the thickness of the plates throughout was half an inch, the ends were flat, with rings of angle iron; the pressure of the steam to which the safety valves were weighted was 50 lb. per square inch. From appearances after the explosion, the tube, which was collapsed in a very remarkable manner in its entire length, had been softened by the heat, having been left dry along the upper side; and the sudden injection of water from the force pumps had caused a development of a large body of steam, which had crushed the tube from one side. No opinions were given in the paper on the theory of the causes of explosions, the author having restricted himself to the absolute detail of facts, and recommending the adoption of the steam whistle, to warn the engineers of the lowness of the water in the boiler, which is the general cause of accidents.

Mr. Lindsay Carnegie presented to the Institution and explained the construction and action of his patent Stone-piercing Machine, to be used instead of the ordinary jumper tool for boring trepan holes in railway blocks, stones for marine constructions, &c. Mr. Vignoles bore testimony to the merits and the economy derived from its use. Mr. Smith, of Deanston, and Mr. Braithwaite, the latter gentleman having peculiar opportunity of giving an opinion, as he had used for some years Mr. Carnegie's stone planing machine which is employed in preparing the slate billiard tables and other works. The prices for piercing holes appeared very low. The labour on a railway block with two holes 1½ inch diameter bored six inches deep, and a space nine inches diameter planned to receive the chair, had been undertaken at Arbroath Quarries for 2½d. per block, and the contractor had cleared much money by them.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—May 2.—Anniversary. The Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Edgar, and Dr. Henderson, were severally re-elected President, Treasurer, and Secretary, for the ensuing year; and the Earl of Ilchester, Sir W. J. Hooker, and Mr. Barchard, were added to the Council. In the report of the auditors the income of the Society was stated to be 1119l. 17s. 8d. more than the expenditure; and a reduction of the Society's debt, to the extent of 1047l. 12s. 8d. within the year, was announced.

May 3.—Sir O. Mosley, Bart., in the chair. R. Boyd, J. C. McMullan, J. Villebois, and B. N. Williams, Esqs., were elected Fellows. A splendid collection of plants was exhibited by Mrs. Lawrence, amongst which were handsome specimens of *Epiphyllum hybridum*, *Erica aristata major*, *E. pinifolia*, well-grown plants of *Chorozema Dicksoni* and *Cytisus Philippensis*, with a bright crimson seedling *Cineraria*. A Knightian medal was awarded for the four latter. From Mr. Dean, gardener to J. Bateman, Esq., F.H.S., some cut flowers of Orchidaceous plants, including *Epidendrum Stamfordianum*, whose delicious fragrance and graceful habit ought to obtain it a place in every collection; *Lelia cinnabarina* from Brazil, of a bright vermilion colour; *Cattleya Skinneri*, a rare and beautiful species; for which a Knightian medal was given. From W. H. Story, Esq., well-flowered plants of *Erica aristata major*, *E. mundula*, and *E. campanulata*; the last a rare and beautiful variety, with

yellow flowers and a peculiarly slender habit, for which a Knightian medal was awarded. From Mr. Atlee, gardener to H. Beaufoy, Esq., a remarkably fine specimen of *Boronia pinnata* and *B. serrulata*, for which a Banksian medal was given. From F. Coventry, Esq., of Jersey, a new species of *Tropaeolum*, with larger flowers than the greenhouse kinds now cultivated; these are of a dark yellow colour, and fimbriated. A Banksian medal was awarded for it. From C. B. Warner, Esq. a collection of Orchidaceous plants containing fine specimens of the rare *Broughtonia sanguinea*, *Zygopetalum rostratum*, and *Epidendrum variegatum*. For the latter a certificate was awarded. From Mr. Standish, a seedling *Calceolaria*, named *C. Standishii*, of a beautiful deep yellow, spotted and streaked with reddish brown, and a new *Salvia* from the North of India; the blossoms when first expanded are of a delicate lavender colour, but afterwards change to a dark blue; it possesses much the habit of a *Lupine*, and is likely to prove a valuable addition to our herbaceous plants. A certificate was given for it. From Mr. Stanley, gardener to H. Berens, Esq., some excellent seedling *Calceolarias*, and a fine plant of *Goodia lotifolia*, for which a certificate was awarded. From Messrs. Lucombe and Pince, a new and handsome *Leptospermum*, from Swan River, with pink flowers, which it produces very freely. A certificate was awarded for it. From Mr. Graves, plants of *Epidendrum incertum* and *Oncidium flexuosum*, a beautiful species, producing a large drooping panicle of bright yellow flowers. For this also a certificate was awarded. From Mr. Beck, three *Calceolarias*, in his newly-invented slate boxes: the luxuriant growth of these plants was sufficient proof that this kind of material suits them as well as the porous burnt pots in general use. From Mr. J. A. Henderson, an excellent collection of *Cinerarias*, for which a certificate was awarded. From Mr. Alex. Scott, gardener to Sir G. Staunton, a fine cluster of the fruit of *Musa Cavendishi*, weighing upwards of 40 lb.; for this a Banksian medal was awarded. From the Garden of the Society, a large collection of Orchidaceous and other plants; amongst them were an exceedingly pretty new species of *Barkeria*, from Guatemala, with delicate lilac and purple flowers, called by the Spanish Americans *Flor d'Isabel*, and used by the Guatemalenses to decorate their altars and temples; a fine specimen of *Oncidium luridum guttatum*; *Odontoglossum laevis*, a new but not particularly handsome species; *Bosinia disticha*, and *Indigofera sylvatica*, two very good greenhouse plants.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.—May 4.—The Bishop of Norwich in the chair. Captain Jones, M.P., was elected a Fellow. Lieut. Rudston Reed exhibited a large shell, brought from Raiata, in the Society Islands. This shell was remarkable for having retained for several years between its layers a considerable quantity of water, which on being exposed to the cold during the last winter became frozen, expanded, broke the shell, and thus escaped. The Rev. Mr. Johns exhibited a living specimen, in full fruit, of *Jungermannia reptans*, and also dried specimens of numerous species of the family Jungermanniaceae. His Grace the Duke of Northumberland sent for exhibition the ripe fruit and female plant, in flower, of the *Diospyros edulis*, which had been grown in the stove at Sion. The continuation of Dr. Hamilton's commentary on the *Hortus malabaricus* was read.

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—April 27.—J. S. Bowbank, Esq., in the chair. A paper was read by G. Busk, Esq., entitled 'Observations on some Infusoria contained in water from Africa.' The water was procured from two localities, and contained thirteen species of Infusoria, all of which, except three species, were common in ordinary water, the other three, which were of the genus *Eunotia*, were precisely similar to those discovered by Ehrenberg as fossils in the Bergmehl of Sweden, but lately he has detected them in the recent state in earth from the neighbourhood of Labrador, thus having two localities of very different conditions as to climate for the same species of Infusoria; which, the author states, would tend to prove that no certainty, as to climate, could be deduced from the occurrence of fossil Infusoria. Another paper was read by the same author: 'On the young of a species of *Ixodes* from Brazil.' These insects were sent from Rio Janeiro in a letter, and were

still alive spent on samples having been it was st forms of English exhibited supposed stones in and w descript and othe them no species six legs after the

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still alive, although upwards of sixty days had been spent on the passage. Portions of three different samples of disintegrated chalk from Salisbury Plain, having been given to different members of the Society, it was stated that they had detected, in them, many forms of minute animals which were apparently new to English microscopists. In October 1840, Mr. White exhibited to the Society some beautiful specimens of supposed minute fungi which he had found on gravel stones in the neighbourhood of Old Ford, Middlesex, and which corresponded, in some measure, with the description of *Craterium pyriforme* as given by Hooker and other botanists. Mr. White has now found them not to be of a fungoid nature, but the ova of a species of *Acarus* with a body of a red colour and six legs: specimens of the insects both in the egg and after their escape were exhibited.

ELECTRICAL SOCIETY.—April 19.—The first paper read was a communication in favour of the Contact Theory of the Voltaic Pile, by M. Martens, of Brussels. The conclusions are briefly these: the electrical condition of metals, or their electro-motive power, is altered by contact with certain liquids; their chemical reactions are thus changed, the condition of alteration only affects the part immersed, and this, with the part emerging, constitutes a pair, the metal being electrically heterogeneous; different liquids modify to different degrees, and hence the same metal, with its ends in different liquids, constitutes a heterogeneous combination, and hence a voltaic pair; the current does not depend on chemical action; the inversion of poles, attending the change to certain electrolytes, is due to the same property; metallic contact is the only direct cause of the galvanic current; chemical action cannot be, because electric tension is manifested before the circuit is closed; constant batteries owe their value to the same action of the liquid on the plates.—Notes from Dr. Ellice of Genoa, were then read. Dr. Ellice obtains the electric light by dropping on the plate of an electroscope any of the following substances, reduced to powder in a coffee mill: coffee, wheat, rice, peas, beans, millet, sulphur, gunpowder, cream of tartar, gum arabic, sugar, marble, chalk, lime, resin, sulphate of copper, rock, sand, salt, bricks, &c. &c.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- SAT. Horticultural Society.—Garden Exhibition.
- MON. Statistical Society, 8.
- British Architects, 8.—“On Gothic Mouldings,” by Professor Willis.—Also, a Necrological notice of the late M. Guenepin, of Paris, received from M. Vandoye.—Some particulars of the new Glue invented by Mr. Jeffery, and upon which experiments have been recently tried at Woolwich.
- TUES. Horticultural Society, 3.
- Chemical Society, 8.
- WED. Geological Society, 4 p. 8.
- Society of Arts, 8.
- FRI. Royal Institution, 4 p. 8.—“Boucherie’s method of preserving Timber by causing the living trees to absorb foreign substances,” by Dr. Lindley.
- Botanical Society, 8.

FINE ARTS

ROYAL ACADEMY.

We recommence our notice at the *Italian Peasants* (123) of Mr. Uwins. The group is pretty: a Tarantella, with its bystanders. The subject, however, is now hackneyed. Seducing as are Italian costume and countenance, we cannot but ask our artists whether they have not been sufficiently painted. Who knows anything of the figures and groups, and various dresses which animate our Welsh market-places? in all of which the poetry of a most poetical peasantry finds more or less evidently an expression! It is in no spirit of exclusiveness that we desire to recal some of our more celebrated artists to their own Abamas and Pharphars. There is young Mr. Goodall, too, whose *Tired Soldier* (72), a most pleasing cabinet picture, we overlooked last week: can his fine observation and faithful pencil find occupation no nearer home than Normandy? We would rather see all our painters aspiring to something of a higher order than these illustrations of domestic life; but, if they must thus employ themselves, we cannot but think that they discard one chance of reaching the heart, whenever, for the sake of a folded handkerchief or starched cap, they treat customs and countenances, with which the English have only the sympathy of strangers.

So much for an outbreak of John-Bull-ism!—and now, passing Mr. Stephanoff’s mannered *Challenge*

(127), our next halt is with Mr. Stanfield, off the *Isola Bella, on the Lago Maggiore* (128). The artist’s particular style seems to demand foreign landscape for its exercise. The leafy and green freshness of our hedgerow and meadow scenery, the mists that drape our lakes and valleys, would, we apprehend, offer serious difficulties to him. We never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Stanfield in a wood, save in the third scene of ‘*Acis and Galatea*,’ where the trees were the architectural-looking, broad-topped pines of the South, and the exigencies of the stage precluded those merits which are indispensable to a painter of home scenery. But give him an Italian sky, and an Italian lake, and an Italian palace, or such a fragment of ruder architecture as we see in his *Torre di Terracina* (512), and he shall conjure up a vision past the sorcery of a Morland or a Gainsborough. To each his own. In the arrangement of foreground effects, too, how happy is our painter! An aloe in a vase, a distaff with a gaudy coloured scarf against a broken bit of marble, or such a frail but picturesque carvel as we have here, with its graceful awning and its graceful rowers,—the full worth of these things is nowhere to be learned so well as in Mr. Stanfield’s landscapes. Were there but a little more life in their handling, such of them as the one we are leaving, might defy modern, and not presumptuously challenge, ancient competition.

We must notice Mr. Briggs’ portrait of *G. H. Errington, Esq.* (129), only to regret that the painter is this year beneath his own standard, when others of his contemporaries have advanced: as, for instance, Mr. Eddis, whose *Child’s Head* (135) did not need the coquetry of its antique frame to attract our notice; and yet more signally, Mr. Rothwell, whose *Portrait of a Lady* (19), (again to retrace our steps) is of the very first quality, when such kings and rulers as Sir Joshua are not thought of. We are now at one of the gems of the Exhibition, Mr. Eastlake’s one contribution (136). Its sweetness almost makes us forgive his parsimony. Here may be seen how a highly pitched standard of taste gives a charm not to be mistaken, or otherwise imparted to any subject, however humble. We have mourned over many a ‘*Nativity*’ or ‘*Flight into Egypt*,’ which contained less poetry, and less spirituality than this simple composition of two young ladies looking away from a music book. So, too, we have seen many an attempt at classic grandeur of costume, which fell short of the effective simplicity of modern robe and braid, as here exhibited,—another, and admirable illustration of Crabbe’s axiom, “It is the soul that sees.” We are ill content that Mr. Eastlake should exhibit nothing beyond this manifestation of skill, in stooping to the things of daily life; but we are thankful for such a pure and delicate example of legitimate art. There is great skill, too, in the arrangement of his colours;—to what country these sisters belong, it is not easy to divine, for their hair is of such a golden brown as Francia has given to the angels in his incomparable ‘*Pieta*’—a hue very rarely found in the North; yet the tints of cheek and lip are not wholly southern. The artist’s peculiar tastes peep out in his selection of pink, yellow, and red, which he manages harmoniously to combine in the draperies: he is more happy in his touch than usual; the garments not having that blanket-texture and fold which we have observed in other of his works.

Mr. Leslie’s *Scene from Henry the Eighth* (148), or a composition closely resembling it, was, if we mistake not, engraved many years since for one of the Annuals. It is not a felicitous effort. Queen Katharine is too young, and withal looks sullen rather than sad; and the maiden with the lute shares the sour precision of her mistress. Then there is a mildeyed coldness of atmosphere, which takes from this pair of melancholy women their one chance of attracting sympathy. Mr. Geddes’s *Greek Girl preparing for her Toilette* (159), is painted in a different feeling. The picture is steeped in sunshine; and so fairly is its golden tone carried out by the long yellow hair and blonde complexion of the nymph, that we cannot but think her a Greek girl by accident. How this may be, let those say who have studied the distribution of Beauty’s lilies and roses geographically. Greek or Greenlander, the maiden is lovely, and the picture richly toned; its harmony indeed attracts the eye on first entering the room. Yet though rich, it is anything but gaudy: the drapery

is merely a subdued white; the tasselled cap, with which the girl is playing, strung of pale coloured bugles or beads, with only a gay thread of colour gleaming through: the manner is everything; and if Mr. Geddes has such an eye as this fancy portrait bespeaks, he would have given us, had he painted the funeral chamber of Kimbolton Castle, a glow from the wings of “the Spirits of Peace,” who conveyed heavenward their sister queen, instead of confining himself, as Mr. Leslie has done, to the hues of neglect and desertion, befitting only a tomb, where come

Nor love, nor hope, nor praise, nor gratitude.

Having been led,—good faith bear witness! without any odious intention,—into comparison, we cannot but call the attention of those who are interested in such speculations, to Sir A. W. Calcott’s *Italian Composition* (166), as measured with Mr. Stanfield’s. Calcott has not been all unvisited by inspirations from Claude, who knew, if ever man did, the secret of southern beauty: but there is a certain tameness in our R.A.’s foliage—a certain formality in his tree anatomy, which we also refer to unconscious imitation. We do not expect the groaning forests of Salviator in every landscape,—nay, we are sure that our contemplative painter would lose himself in bewilderment, were he to enter their labyrinths; but the distance is wide between their rocking and writhing boughs, and their foliage tossed to and fro in wild confusion, and the set attitude and sea-weed-like tenuity of leafage, for which he shows, perhaps, too exclusive a preference. This remark may be thought to accuse one of our best landscape artists of tameness:—not wholly so; but in his avoidance of all violent emotions and harsh effects, he may possibly have ceased to watch the line which severs simplicity from insipidity. A step further, and he will have passed it. Yet the tranquil freshness and transparent ether of the far horizon—the calm diffused over the wide river, with its picturesque ruins of the bridge—are so lovely, that our friendly and respectful warning must by no means be mistaken for a weariness of graces so rare.

Of manufacture in place of creation, we could hardly find choicer specimens than Mr. Partridge’s *Portrait of Prince Albert* (171), one of the four cardinal pictures of the Great Room; and Sir Martin Shee’s *Countess Brancifort* (179), a work we would assuredly have hung in a modest position. Its unmerited prominence alone could tempt us to notice it. Close under it, however, hangs a little piece of redemption in Mr. Creswick’s *River Scene* (180). This, had every one his due, should have been put above the Countess; for as it is, the somewhat monotonous greenness of its tones may deter many from stooping to make acquaintance with the curious fidelity of this transcript of Nature. Anything more delicate and faithful than its pencilling rarely comes before us; and while we look on what from above may seem but a disagreeably unvaried mass of colour, a vista unfolds itself, so dewy, so retired, so rich in the softness of its turf, so cool in the fragments of gray stone, which break the water-flowers of the river’s marge, as to suggest the idea of fairies and echoes, and all the exquisite sights and sounds of the woodlands at Midsummer time. The eye needs the repose of this delicious landscape, ere attempting to disentangle the frantic puzzle (182), called by Mr. Turner *A Snow Storm*. This gentleman has, on former occasions, chosen to paint with cream, or chocolate, yolk of egg, or currant jelly,—here he uses his whole array of kitchen stuff. Where the steam-boat is—where the harbour begins, or where it ends—which are the signals, and which the author in the *Artic* (all which items figure in the catalogue), are matters past our finding out. But Mr. Turner has a pair of still more provoking enigmas in the Middle Room. *Peace* (338) is represented by a bunch of prize heartseases squashed on a blue canvas, which, on looking into the Catalogue, means, we find, that “*Merit’s corse*” is “*yielded to the tide*,” from the side of a steamer. The pertinence of this illustration may escape some; but as to the manner in which it is wrought out, doctors will hardly disagree. We cannot fancy the state of eye, which will permit any one cognizant of Art, to treat these rhapsodies as Lord Byron treated ‘*Christabel*’; neither can we believe in any future revolution, which shall bring the world round to the

opinion of the worshipper, if worshipper such frenzies still possess. But Mr. Turner's *War* (353) is yet odder than his 'Peace.' In the midst of a canvas smeared with every shade of rose colour, crimson, vermilion, and orange, is set up a *thing*—man it assuredly is not:—there are birds in buckskin breeches, and frogs trying to seduce by their tight-waisted coats, in Grandville's inimitable *travesties*, which have a more human air than this effigy of Napoleon rolled out to a colossal height, and whose presence could only be guessed, from the *daub* at his familiar costume, made by our dreamer. Below the feet of the modern Prometheus, lies something about the size of his cocked-hat, called in the Catalogue "a rock limpet"—and this is War! We shall not forget one or two foreign faces which we saw gazing at these monstrosities. Our "proud cousins," we know, are not apt to be catholic in their artistic admiration; but here, with mortification of heart, we felt that we had not a word to say in proof of their condemnation being bigotry. On the contrary, our strange inconsistency in matters of taste rose up to memory, and bid us hold our peace. We will not endure the music of Berlioz, nor abide Hoffmann's fantasy-pieces. Yet the former is orderly, and the latter are commonplace, compared with these outbreaks, whose perpetrator is nevertheless allowed places of honour for all the three.

Laying aside our indignation, and returning to the Great Room, there is much to praise in a portrait by Signor Gambardella (185). His tones of colour, it is true, do not belong to the English gamut; his flesh shadows are bluish; and there is a gloom in the retiring portions of the face, admirable in a warrior's or monk's portrait, when given with the force of a Cagliari or a Spagnuolo,† but misplacedly grim and mournful when the subject is a lady, and the artist more eminent for gentleness of touch and completeness of finish, than the dash and vigour which belong to masculine portrait painters. Despite of these drawbacks, however, the portrait is not one to be passed by. If the lady be not a countrywoman of the artist, he has managed, nevertheless, to give her a touch of the serene and sumptuous beauty which belongs to the Fiordelisas or Fiammettas of his own romantic literature. The air is unaffected, the costume, though carefully studied, neither modish, nor fantastically unworldly. In short, the picture has a substantiality and character even in the points where we raise objections, which distinguish it among its neighbours, and make it a welcome variety.

Mr. Cope rarely disappoints us, but rarely pleases us so much as this year. How such a work as his *Hope* (193) should be hung so low, when Mr. Turner's 'Fallacies of Hope,' occupy places parallel with the gaze's eye, is one of those mysteries which are beneath unacademical fathoming. Mr. Cope's drawing has our best wishes for its amendment. With such good gifts of expression, such feeling for composition, we have a right to look for his name to a Cartoon, and we would aid him to provide against our and his own disappointment. This year, besides his studies from the Deserted Village, he gives us two life-size figures (half length) in the Mother and Sleeping Infant, suggested by Campbell's poem. The faces are beautiful: that of the babe is flushed by the intensity of its healthy sleep; that of the mother made eager by the depth of her love, the gentleness of which is told in the soft, heedful pressure of her hand enclosing the tiny fingers of her darling. Beyond this beauty of countenance and truth of feeling, the picture is rendered attractive by a very pleasing arrangement of colour, and the string of pearls, the blue beads, &c., at once enliven and connect the broader masses of light, shadow, and demi-tint. Mr. Cope can hardly stand still; because he seems to comprehend

† We might have added, a Kaulbach; but as the allusion required explanation, we will here give a word of passing homage to a splendid *Ritter* in mail, which might be seen at Munich in that artist's studio last autumn. A finer modern portrait does not exist. The erect and imperious port, the burly but symmetrical limbs, the massive countenance, with its thick reddish hair, and full sanguine lips, and keen, shrewd eyes, are before us as we write. The picture, moreover, was painted with a freedom, as well as a force, not often found in the pictures of young Germany. The original was a young painter, who had figured with his comrades at a court masque, given in honour of Prince Maximilian, and his portrait had been commanded by the king. It is, indeed, a pleasure, "said the artist, (himself as striking a picture as any in his delightful atelier), to paint such a fine fellow."

the wisdom of enterprise, and to attempt in turn every class of subject, from the spiritual to the familiar, rarely without manifesting progress. This picture, too, is far more firmly and boldly painted than others from the same pencil.

Mr. Allan's *Battle of Preston Pans* (201) is too meritorious and elaborate a work to be passed over, though we confess a certain disinclination to the class of subject, even when a Bourguignone or Vernet undertakes to display their "pride, pomp, and circumstance"; and Mr. Allan wants that *clarion-tongue* (fantastically to characterize spirit and freedom of hand) which leads the eye from group to group, and enables it, for the sake of motion, and diversity of attitude, and brilliancy of presentment, to comprehend such a scene of confusion as a battle must be. One more picture, only detains us, ere leaving the Great Room, and with that we shall not tarry long; it is the *Juliet and the County Paris* (202) of Mr. Hollins. That County Paris was but a walking, talking gentleman, we know; but Juliet though a girl, was not, at least when seeking Friar Lawrence's ghostly counsel, the spiritless, *very pretty* creature we have here, in pink and green. Mr. Hollins is too often stiff, but rarely so feeble as in this large work. His portraits, however, are better than this imaginative composition.

Issuing from the Great Room, and following the numbers of the catalogue, the first pictures which detain us are the *Chapel of the Convent of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai* (228), by Mr. Roberts, and two dreams (call them not landscapes) by Mr. Danby, *A Conquest of the Lyre and the Pipe in the Valley of Tempe* (229), and *A Soirée at St. Cloud in the Reign of Louis XIV.* (236). Now, protesting as we needs must, that neither Tempe nor the French Court Arcady ever yielded such a treasure of dainty hues as here floods the canvas with primrose, lilac, pink, and marigold orange (the very tints of a flower show), we must still do justice to that feeling for the elegant and the gorgeous which rarely forsakes Mr. Danby, even when he is most conventional. The formal alleys and bosquets of the French paradise—the sumptuous *châlonne*, freighted with the silken and *spiritual* followers of the most magnificent court in Europe—have fallen into the right hands. Superficial gazers will find enough to startle them and to cavil at; but we, who have a tenderness for Vauxhall, even though there be a moon abroad above Windsor Forest,—who can find "good" in the artificial splendours of a *ballet*, while we love with all our hearts the wildest nook of common land, the loneliest hollow among the rocks, where—

sitteth Nature,

Her tresses all unbound,

cannot but see that, of their kind, these pictures of Mr. Danby's have a manner, and a beauty, a fancy, anything but despicable. He exhibits a *Repose*, too, (375) which, but for a certain heaviness of hand, would rank high as an imaginative landscape.

Mr. Redgrave's fancy has been pleasantly at work on the most charming of all the fairy tales—his *Cinderella* (244) being the fair product. The story approaches its *dénouement*: the mystic glass slipper stands on its cushion, delightful foretaste of a crown for her whose foot can enter: the neglected beauty, looking down and hesitating a little more than we believe the wearer *really* did, is led towards the ordeal by the Prince, who eyes her with such an earnestness of admiration, that, had she even possessed a hoof instead of the "nippit and clippit foot" of the Scotch ballad, we believe she must have been chosen by him, and his proclamation rendered null and void. Meanwhile, Spite and Tyranny are adjusting their sandals, with many a sneer at their sister's audacity and the Prince's condescension. They try for a court smile, but only succeed in a malicious simper, which, were there "poppy and mandragora" in a look, would poison their innocent victim. Clearly made out as is the story, and attractively handled as are its details, the draftsman's correcting hand is wanted. The enamoured youth, for instance, (to go no further for blemishes,) does all but squint. These things must be amended, or we shall have no Age of Cartoons.

Mr. Patten's *Eve* (245), though firmly painted, is not the most agreeable of the nymphs for which we are indebted to his pencil. It is possible that some

floating fancy of the attributes which befit the mother of the human race, may have encouraged him to give a double measure of fulness to the contour,—a serenity of matronship to the figure. In these respects the figure reminds us of some of those by Van Orley, without the fleshiness of that master. As a type of English art—its wants and capabilities,—this Eve holds a like place to that which the Eve of Dubufe, some years since exhibited here, would occupy in a French gallery. After all, Mr. Patten has made small advance beyond the 'Bacchante leaning on the leopard's skin,' which first brought him forward. Mr. F. P. Stephanoff is another of the standers-still, as his scene of Washington Irving's *Bold Dragoon* (252), though an agreeable picture, sufficiently testifies. Take from his figures their grandfather lappels and lace cravats, and their grandmother caps and cushion-drawn hair, and one set smile will suffice for all his ladies and gentlemen, whatever their epoch or occupation.

But what shall we say of the historical piece which that troubler of the Academy's Israel, Mr. Haydon, exhibits?—This is a cradle scene from the life of the most interesting of modern heroines, poor Mary Stuart, who is exhibited in naked babyhood by her mother to the English ambassador, that the latter may take home a fair account of her health and her beauty. How, with the "world before him where to choose," a clever artist could pitch upon such an incident, it is hard to imagine, unless—as is not impossible—Mr. Haydon may fancy himself particularly strong "in the cherubim line." The hugeness of the picture is its chief characteristic; for the Queen-mother—a solemn virago—and the acquiescent go-between, who admires with extravagant complacency what he is bidden to admire, and the rosy babe herself, have no mystery of either form, colour, or expression, beyond the reach of men never troubled by dreams of the grand historical style. Even the apposition of flesh-colours, which three personages so different, brought so closely together, might have yielded, has been overlooked: there is a sort of furnace light thrown over the whole transaction, anything rather than engaging. The companion picture to this is Mr. West's *Charles I. receiving instruction in drawing from Rubens* (267): tempting names these, but no child's play to grapple with,—especially for an Englishman, who has the Windsor pictures so easily within his own and the public's reach. Nor can we conscientiously say that Mr. West has made good his right to the adventure. Close to this hangs one of Mr. Pickersgill's *Pilgrim Portraits* (260), in which amice grey and cockleshell hat are called upon to give meaning and expression to a somewhat inexpressive countenance. These fantasies, beginning with his who loved to portray himself and his friends as beggars, are, at best, but puerile conceits,—tricks which, once learned, cease to be respected. Among the life-size pictures, which give this side of the Middle Room a peculiar significance, we must not pass over Mr. Brigstocke's *Alnaschar* (268), though we mention it for the ambition of the thing: a bold effect of foreshortening, rather than for any very startling excellence it possesses.

The *Return of the Knight* (273), by Mr. MacIae,—probably a companion picture to one exhibited a few years since at the British Institution,—is one of the best of his cabinet pictures, though a touch of stage exuberance in the plume gives the composition that dash of extravagance which bespeaks the artist. It is perhaps, too, a fault of taste—let gentler critics decide for us—to have made the hero meet the lady of his love with his visor down. Nor is the delicious anticipation of the moment, when with trembling fingers she is about to unmask the well known face, worth the slightest misgiving as to his reciprocal eagerness, which will be raised with some nice professors in the Court of Love, by the warlike defiance of his thus entering. Argue as we may, however, Mr. MacIae is a head higher than most of his compeers, as giving us something to argue. Ere we leave him finally for this year, or close this week's notice, we will speak of the one other picture he exhibits—*The Origin of the Harp* (428), in which, illustrating one of Moore's most fanciful Irish melodies, he is thoroughly at home. Perhaps his

Syren of old, that sung under the sea,
may be thought a trifle too full in her form, and too

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now in her cheek, for one who loved so vainly, that Heaven

—looked in pity on love so warm, And changed to this soft harp the sea-maiden's form.

Still her bosom rose fair—still her cheek smiled the same, While her sea-beauties gracefully cur'd round the frame; And her hair, shedding tear-drops from all its bright rings, Fell over her white arm to make the gold strings!

It may be seen how intimately the poet and painter are associated, when in talking of the one, we imperceptibly glide away into pleasant remembrances of the other. From such a confusion (which will be clearly intelligible, however, to all who look on the picture) there is no disentangling the hard, practical acumen required for the measurement of contours, the adjustment of warm and cool colours. Happy, and to be envied, then, is the artist—and good luck to him!—who can thus charm us away from the performance of a duty at best ungracious, to that better land of Poetry, of which, alas! there are now-a-days so few glimpses.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—The state of the Opera pit, on Saturday night, recalled to us that melancholy line—

Bare, ruined quires, where late the sweet birds sang.

What a change from the May Saturdays of the past eight seasons! A change, we must add, not unmerited. 'Torquato Tasso' is the feeblest of Donizetti's operas; and in spite of its containing Ronconi's favourite part, we cannot but prefer our remembrance of the capriciously-treated Coletti to the reality of the much-vaunted baritone, who sung out of tune all the evening, and with less finish or passion than we had looked for. Madame Ronconi, the *Eleanora* of his love, was worse treated here than at Verona on a similar occasion. There she was received in silence, and he was hissed for allowing her to perform. In London the *basso* was received better than he deserved; the lady worse; for Madame Ronconi is not a disagreeable singer. The only real excitement of the evening was created by Lablache in the foolish and insignificant character of *Gherardo*. He is the elephant of dramatic singers; no part is too ponderous for him to carry; none too mean for him to raise! Quarrel the last, at the Italian Opera, is said to have taken the shape of Madame Grisi's contract returned to the management in tatters by that imperious lady. Rumour the last announces a revival of 'Il Barbiere' (?), and the production of Mercadante's 'Bravo' with Frezzolini and Persiani, to be supported, we presume, by Poggi and Lablache. A new ballet, too, is preparing for Cerrito. We wish that these combinations and contrivances may not have come too late. In the meanwhile let us speak of the 'Lucrezia Borgia,' as given on Tuesday evening. The cast of this opera was entirely new: Signora Frezzolini taking the part of the heroine, Signor Poggi that of *Gennaro*, Signor Gramaglia that of *Orsini*, while Lablache was the *Don Alphonso* of the evening; and we may add, the singer also, as well as the actor. By his side the new importations looked and sounded like raw scholars, and yet it has been the fashion with a part of the public to declare that this consummate artist has lost vocal power. Neither as regards management of voice, nor dramatic conception, did La Frezzolini give us much cause to change our opinion of her, expressed on the occasion of her *debut*. Her voice is beautiful, and would be flexible, had it been sufficiently exercised; but she chooses to consider it powerful, according to the acceptance of the word in modern Italy, and, therefore, strains it on all passages of emphasis, in a manner which gives pain rather than conveys passion: she might, with good effect, study Persiani's method of making much out of little. In her embellishments we had fewer failures than on the former occasion. Her acting is as strained in all passages demanding energy as her singing; and often when she obviously imagines she is ironical and severe, the phrase comes from her lips with a trip and a smile, which would be *naïf* and appropriate in the repertory of *Opera buffa*. All the voluptuous and sinister wickedness of the part, which Grisi so well touched at certain moments, was hardly animated by the new *prima donna*. Signor Poggi has a sufficient tenor voice; but as to the amount of his musical or histrionic power, we shall suspend our

judgment till he has appeared in 'Il Bravo,' which, we are informed, is his favourite character. This suspense, by the way, leads us to a distinction between the old and new schools: formerly a singer claimed honours for the command he possessed over his voice; the actor for his intelligence. Now, on the other hand, a certain *cavatina* in an individual work—or one of those lucky attitudes, into which any one with sufficient experience of the stage must fall, if he be not irredeemably stupid—is appealed to as the grand school of Italian dramatic singing. The art, in short, has gone down; and if we minutely notice the *how* of its decadence, it is for the warning of future managers, musicians, and librettists.

ANCIENT CONCERTS.—The best things are not always the most suggestive; nor do we conceive that the Earl of Cawdor arranged his concert-scheme with the intention of ministering to the speculations of those who are interested in tracing the boundary lines of the several schools of Art: since the very monotony which set us a-thinking, was assuredly the last thing to be coveted by the arranger of an entertainment where the listeners care for little save the amusement of the hour. It so fell out, however, that the music of the greater part of the first act had one and the same colour;—a 'Credo,' by Leo,—a 'Sanctus Benedictus,'—a 'Donna,' from one of Mozart's *Servantes* (as the master's melodies are puritanically called),—a 'Veni,' by Jomelli,—a *terzetto* from the 'Debora e Sisera' of Cimarosa,—nay, even a florid *aria*, by Himmel (whence derived the *programme* told not),—bore all the same strong family likeness, belonging as completely to the florid school of Catholic Art as do the churches of the Jesuits among foreign ecclesiastical buildings. To any who are familiar with the splendid gold, the glossy marbles, and the sumptuous draperies of the latter, our parallel will, at once, convey the thought which is uppermost in our minds—the characteristic involuntarily received from this performance. Beauty of surface could hardly be carried further than in some of the compositions we have enumerated; sweetness of melody be hardly more exquisitely varied. But the beauty seemed to us rather befitting nymphs, graces, and goddesses, than saints and martyrs,—in its forms voluptuous, in its contours Pagan,—while to our ears the sweetness had that voluptuous sensuality of allurements which brings down Heaven to Earth, changing angels into Houris but "a little above man,"—in place of that graver beauty which raises Earth to Heaven, informs the animal with spiritual intelligence, and makes man "a little lower than the angels." The grim old Pontiffs and Defenders of the Faith were, after all, not so short-sighted when they distrusted and denounced secular turns, when introduced into the services of the Church. They felt that a time of gorgeous corruption was impending; when the soul of their august religion might be stifled,—as regards Art, at least,—in the mundane pomp with which it was arrayed, and that too many would avail themselves of the latter, to represent it as a "reproach" essential to the former. The Paphian looking temples which the courtliest ecclesiastical order of Europe decorated, are not further from the dim and massive Gothic sanctuaries of an earlier world than all these strains of honeyed seduction, from the more masculine but spiritual grandeur of Bach's and Handel's music, as the few fragments introduced on Wednesday gave us occasion to observe. Space is wanted to work out this idea to the conclusions to which, we think, it must inevitably lead. But—beyond the distinction between service-music and that intended for representation, which we intimated a week or two since,—we think, in the parallel just hazarded lies a reason for the indifference with which these florid Catholic strains, are received among us; if they are proved to be too theatrical for the awakening of those deepest devotional feelings, without which the *sung*, as well as the performed Mass, becomes a piece of mummery in an unknown tongue, to him who attends it. Our crotchets, however, must not make us forget the enumeration of the principal artists engaged: these were Madame Caradori, Miss Birch, Messrs. Harrison and Phillips, Miss Mason, and Messrs. Hawkins and Hobbs making up the number. Mr. Harrison deserves to be singled out, for his clear delivery and finished execution of Handel's 'Total eclipse.'

THE disastrous termination of Mr. C. Mathews's lesseeship of Covent Garden has added another chapter of losses to the history of the patent theatres; and the hitherto unpropitious career of Mr. Macready's management at Drury Lane makes us fear for his fortunes also. Past and present experience combine to show that these huge overgrown theatres, with their expensive establishments, triple companies, and costly stage appointments, held at rentals that are calculated not at the worth of the houses, but at the debts incurred to build them up, are enormous "folies." Originating in pride and rapacity, they have led to the sacrifice of the very interests they were intended to aggrandize; and now they hang like millstones round the neck of the drama, dragging down renters and lessees, actors and dramatists, into one gulf of ruin. They look like what they are, monuments of vanity—tombs of the drama: the outward show of grandeur and prosperity miserably mocks the reality of bankruptcy and littleness within. The noblest and most heart-stirring, or heart-easing of popular entertainments, the acted drama, has been reduced through their agency to the condition of a passing show, where, if painting, music, and pantomime refine pageantry, the interest of the drama of life is overlaid by the attractions of the spectacle; and the poetry of Shakspeare—bawled out by some strong-lunged ranter, whose worn and torn voice, strained to its highest pitch, is robbed of musical intonation, and all power of expressing by delicate inflections the fine meaning of his author—is degraded into a mere showman's explanation; while the actor's grimaces and posturings caricature humanity in order that the gallery-folks may not accuse him of being ineffective. And all for what?—that the patent theatres may monopolize all the attractions of the drama, for the exclusive profit, honour, and glory, of the proprietors. The profits of managership are reaped by the Davidges and Ducrows, and by the keepers of taverns, who regale their customers with music and dancing, to the accompaniment of gin and water—the drama and drama conjointly. An advertisement in the daily papers this week announces the performance of the whole of the music of 'La Gazza Ladra,' by Mr. Frazer and other vocalists of no mean pretensions. "Stop the performance!" "suspend the licence!" cries out Patent Monopoly, because it has forced play-goers living at a distance, and only able to afford a shilling for the evening's entertainment, to resort to the riding circus and the tavern opera for amusement. Abolish patent monopoly, and reduce the size, the rents, and companies of the two great theatres, we say; and let the residents of every neighbourhood have in turns the best performances brought home to their doors, by means of ambulatory companies of tragedians, comedians, vocalists, and so on. The German and Italian Operas are thus naturalized in England: why may not the English drama be visitant in our suburbs and great towns? If Mr. Macready had a company of tragedians, Mr. C. Mathews one of comedians, Mr. Kemble one of vocalists, who should visit by turns Liverpool and Manchester, Greenwich and Richmond, making a continual circuit from one end of the metropolis and of the kingdom to another, the proprietors of theatres letting them nightly, the public and the players would be gainers, and the drama might flourish as of yore. The provincial theatres are bankrupt, because London monopolizes all the talent on the stage, and the advanced intelligence of the day will put up with barn theatricals no longer.

The *débris* of the Covent Garden Company have got together at the Lyceum; but something better than Fitzball melo-drama, and stale Olympic burlettas, is required to attract audiences. One amusing farce, like 'The Enthusiast,' will hardly suffice in the way of novelty.—The Haymarket is enriched by Mrs. Nisbett's charming and impulsive gaiety; she has been playing the *Widow Cheery*, and redeeming Cherry's parlour-paths from sickness, in 'The Soldier's Daughter,' and *Constance* in 'The Love Chase.' Farren and Mrs. Glover are also promised, to alternate with Mr. and Mrs. C. Kean.—At Drury Lane the benefits furnish the only variety; 'Marino Faliero' is announced, and a new farce; but no novelties of mark.

MESSRS. MOULQUE, MOHR, and HAUSMANN'S Soirées Musicales will take place at the Hanover Square Rooms, on Thursdays, May 19th, June 2nd, and June 16th, for the performance of concerted pieces, from the works of Classical Composers, as well as solos. Among other novelties, M. Moule's three MS. Quartets will be introduced. Vocalists: Miss Adelaide Kemble, Miss Doby, Miss Basano, Miss Marshall, Mr. J. Bennett, Herr Kroff, &c. Instrumentalists: Madame Dulchen, Mr. W. S. Bennett, M. Benedict, Messrs. Moule, Mohr, Hill, Hausmann, &c.

Subscription Tickets for the series, or Family Tickets to admit three to any one of the Soirées, One Guinea each; Single Tickets Half-a-Guinea each, to be had at Messrs. Molique, Mohr, and Haumann's residence, 36, Devonshire Street, Portland Place, and at the principal Music shops.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.

On Monday Evening, May 13th, Her Majesty's Servants will perform, for the last time this season, Shakespeare's Tragedy of MACBETH; with Handel's Opera of ACIS AND GALATEA, illustrated by Mr. Stanfield, R.A.

Tuesday, only time this season, THE STRANGER; with the SON-NAMBULA.

Wednesday, last time this season, Shakespeare's Tragedy of Hamlet; and THE PRISONER OF WAR.

Thursday, THE PROVOKED HUSBAND; a new Farce called AN ATTIC STORY; and other Entertainments.

Friday, will be presented Lord Byron's Historical Tragedy of MARINO FALLERO, Duke of Venice: *Marino Fallero*, Mr. Macready; *Leon*, Mr. Anderson; *Isabel Bertuccio*, Mr. Phelps; *Bertramo*, Mr. Elton; *Angiolino*, Miss H. Faucit; with, last time this season, ACIS AND GALATEA, being for the BENEFIT of Mr. MACREADY.

Saturday, a Play, and other Entertainments, being the last night but one of the present season.

DRURY LANE.

Miss HELEN FAUCIT respectfully informs her friends and the public, that her BEAUTIFUL FIFTEENTH MAY, May 12, when will be performed the Play of THE STRANGER. Principal Characters, Messrs. Macready, Phelps, Lyne, Compton, Keeley, Hudson, G. Bennett, Messrs. Helen Faucit, Stirling, Keeley, P. Horton, and Gould. After which Bellini's Opera of LA SONNAMBULA; principal Characters, Messrs. Gubille, Alton, Compton, Mellon; Messrs. Komar, Poole, C. Jones. Tickets may be had of Miss Helen Faucit, 1, Brompton Crescent, and of Mr. Notter, at the Box-office of the Theatre.

MISCELLANEA

Timon of Athens.—From a constant familiarity with the pages of your journal since its first establishment, I have reason to know that nothing which in the slightest degree tends to elucidate the text of Shakespeare will be regarded by you as trivial, and I therefore feel assured that you will, at a convenient opportunity, allow it to be the medium of communicating the following emendation of a passage in *Timon of Athens*, which has hitherto baffled the commentators, to Mr. Collier and Mr. Knight, should they be disposed to avail themselves of it.

Timon's Soliloquy, Act 4, sc. 3.

Tim. O blessed breeding sun, draw from the earth
Rotten humidity; below thy sister's orb
Infect the air! Twinn'd brothers of one womb,—
Whose procreation, residence, and birth,
Scarcely is dividant,—touch them with several fortunes,
The greater scorns the lesser. Not nature,
To whom all sores lay siege, can bear great fortune,
But by contempt of nature:

Raise me this beggar, and deny't that lord;
The senator shall bear contempt hereditary,
The beggar native honour.

It is the pasture lards the brother's sides;
The want that makes him lean. Who dares, &c.

The passage is very incorrectly given in the folio of 1623, and the last two lines are thus disfigured:

It is the pasture lards the brother's sides;
The want that makes him lean.

I have elsewhere had occasion to observe, that a more intimate knowledge of our earlier language would often have saved the commentators much conjectural blundering, and in this instance I think will be found another proof of the truth of that observation. I read the last two lines thus:

It is the pasture lards the *rotter's* sides;
The want that makes him lean.

The word *rotter*, for an *ox*, was certainly current in the poet's time, for the term *rotter beasts* occurs in the Statutes 2 & 3 Edw. VI. c. 19, and 21 Jac. I. c. 29, and there signifies oxen, kine, &c., called by the Germans, *Rind vieh*. The word is of course Anglo-Saxon, and is used by Layamon, by Robert of Gloucester, and by the author of *Piers Plouman*. Phillips, Milton's nephew, in his 'World of Words,' 1671, says, it was then used in the north of England, and *rotter soil* in Herefordshire, for the dung of *Horned Cattle*. The emendation makes obvious sense of a passage, from which, as it stands in the old copy, it is difficult to torture a meaning; and the error is one which might easily occur in the hands of a negligent printer.—I am, &c., S. W. SINGER. Mickleham, April 25, 1842.

Paris Academy of Sciences.—May 3.—Papers were read from M. Reville, of Havre, on the use of cotton sails for ships, as more economical than those made from flax, and being at the same time equally serviceable. Certificates from various persons who have made use of cotton sails, and specimens of their old and new were laid before the Academy.—From Messrs. Hempel and Hamann, on a new compass, of their invention, for measuring ellipses. The report of Col. Pissant and M. Sturm on this invention, which was read to the Academy, states it to be superior to any instrument for the same purpose hitherto known; consequently, the Academy decided on expressing publicly its approbation of the invention.—From M. Jobard, of Brussels, on some experiments which he proposes to make, with a view of ascertaining the best means of preventing the explosion of steam-boilers. The principal experiment proposed by M. Jobard is, such a construction of the boiler as will permit, when the mixture of explosive gases has been formed, the

introduction of a stream of atmospheric air, so as to render them inextinguishable.—From M. de Castelnau, on some geological revolutions in the central parts of North America. The period to which M. de Castelnau directs the attention of the Academy is that corresponding with the geological revolution to which the bordering portions of Canada and the United States owe their present configuration, viz. that which formed the great Lake of Canada, extending from east to west, with the exception of Lake Michigan, the direction of which is from the north to the south, with a slight deviation towards the west. At the south of the southern point of this lake, there extended toward the Ohio on the one side, and the Mississippi on the other, vast prairies, entirely formed of deep alluvial soil covering an old calcareous bed. Every thing indicates, says M. de Castelnau, that this region was formerly the basin of a lake of much greater extent than those which now exist in this part of the world, and, on approaching the Mississippi, the proofs of this phenomenon become more evident. He considers it certain, that at a remote period there was some obstruction to the course of the Mississippi, which produced a stagnation of its waters, and raised them to an elevation of 40 metres; for wherever the rocks present an abrupt front towards the river, they offer a series of parallel lines, inclining slightly towards the north. The geological formation of the land in the vicinity of Lake Huron, presents the character of a vast Silurian formation. According to M. de Castelnau, Lake Superior formerly discharged itself into Lake Michigan, which had its termination in an immense basin, to which he gives the name of Lake Silurian, and which probably discharged the excess of its contents into the Mexican Sea; but a revolution of nature checked the passage of the waters to the extremity of Lake Michigan, and produced at Lake Silurian the rising ground known as the Illinois, which must have been of greater extent than it is now, and it is not impossible, that with its progressive depression, the waters will at some distant period resume their former course.

At a special Meeting held on Monday, the 9th, M. Cordier communicated various details relating to the horrible accident on the Versailles railroad, extracted from an official report addressed to the Minister of the Interior by Messrs. Combes and De Senarmont, the engineers of Mines, charged with the inspection of rail-roads. In addition to the facts already known, it states that the foremost locomotive was a small one, with four wheels, and the other one of large dimensions with six wheels, made by Sharp and Roberts. The boilers of both are at present without the slightest injury. According to the testimony of the Commissary of Police of Meudon, one of the carriages was altogether consumed in ten minutes. The report contains the following summary as to the cause of the calamity. The accident originated in a fatal concurrence of circumstances, which were all gross faults, easy to have been foreseen, and still more easily to have been avoided. The first cause of the accident was the employment of a locomotive with four wheels. It is essential that every carriage intended for service on a rail-road should rest on six wheels at least, in order that if one of the axles should break, the carriage should rest on supporters, and continue its course. The second fault consisted in the employment of two locomotives for a single train. The consequences of this arrangement are self-evident. A third circumstance was, the precaution taken to lock the door of the waggon; so that in such a case as that which occurred, all escape was prevented, and the travellers were condemned to suffer all the consequences of the first accident. Another cause which had much influence on the catastrophe, was the neglect to isolate the train from the locomotive, so as to prevent the shock occasioned by the sudden check to the speed with which they were proceeding. It is worthy of remark, that if all those causes had not existed together, and if only a single precaution had been taken, the accident would not have happened. If the first engine had been furnished with six wheels when its axle broke, it would not have lost its equilibrium. If a second locomotive had not been employed, the only consequence of the accident would have been a shock; and, even admitting that the two first causes of the accident existed, had the doors of the waggons not been locked, a number of the passengers might have

escaped the flames: and the interposition of the elastic system would have saved the train even if no other precaution had been observed. The Academy listened to the account in mournful silence. Several members afterwards made remarks on the inconvenience of using locomotives with four wheels: M. Elie de Beaumont particularly protested against immense trains being drawn by several locomotives, the danger increasing in proportion to the number of machines employed. The custom of locking up the passengers was also much spoken against. Towards the close of the sitting, a rumour having spread in the Academy that Admiral Dumont d'Urville was amongst the number of the dead, or at least that he had not been found after the accident, it being certain that he had entered one of the foremost waggons, M. Arago proposed that two members should be appointed to make inquiries respecting him; and if they found him among the wounded, to testify to him all the interest that the Academy took in his fate.

International Copyright.—The report of a speech by Mr. Cornelius Mathews, delivered at a dinner given to Mr. Dickens at New York, at which Mr. Washington Irving presided, has been sent to us. The Americans are awakening to the certainty that America never can have a literature of its own, while literary piracy is permitted there. This important truth was enforced in this Journal years since, by Mr. Timothy Flint. Mr. Mathews goes further than his countryman, and shows cause:—"The public taste," he says, "is so deeply affected by the interested laudations of inferior authors by the republicans, that the value of literary reputation, as well as literary property, is greatly impaired. No distinction is made between good writers and bad; they all appear in the same dress, under the same introduction; and the judgment of the general reader is so perplexed, that he cannot choose between Mr. Dickens and Mr. Harrison Ainsworth—between the classical drama of Tal- fourd, and the rapid farce of Bourcierault. As this system deepens and strengthens itself, as it does every day, an American celebrity will cease to have any semblance of the discriminating applause of a 'contemporaneous posterity,' and be regarded only as the confused shout of a distant crowd."—We may add, that an article in a like spirit appears in the U.S. *Literary Advertiser* just received; and the writer observes, that the question has received a fresh impetus by the recent visit of Mr. Dickens. There can, indeed, be no doubt, that Mr. Dickens's straightforward way of dealing with the question on the first opportunity, has done great good to the cause.

Fire Arms.—A letter from Stuttgart, 21st ult., states:—"Within the last fortnight our capital has been the rendezvous of a great number of persons curious in fire-arms. The cause of this influx of company is the sale of the late Duke Henri de Wirtemberg's valuable collection of guns and pistols. In it is found a complete series of the various sorts that have existed since 1650 to the present day from the workshops of the most celebrated makers in all the countries in Europe. There are also several articles which present an historical interest, from having belonged to celebrated personages; such as Louis XIV., Charles XII., Turenne, the Duke d'Albe, Prince Eugene (de Savoie), Napoleon, &c. Other objects are remarkable for curious carvings, incrustations of gold, silver, ivory, and mother of pearl, and by their ornaments in precious stones. The whole collection is valued at 400,000 florins.

The Water-cup, Water Crowfoot (Ranunculus aquatilis).—It is in the recesses of a gentle river, or the quiet of a country pond, that this charming wild flower floats in its livery of green and silver. There it forms a carpet of lucid foliage, succeeded by myriads of cups of dazzling white. It appears with the warm days of April, and is gone by the middle of summer. In that short space of time, however, it has performed more real service to man than perhaps could be effected by the trees that overshadow it. Its long succulent roots branch in all directions among the water that it floats upon, sucking up greedily all the impurities it may contain; by them the water is deprived of the power of emitting unwholesome exhalations, and swamps are deprived of their unhealthy character so long as such flowers are growing in them. *Gardener's Chronicle.*

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